

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

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NEWS

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TRAVELING EXHIBITION OF NINETEENTH CENTURY WOOD-BLOCK PRINTS NOW OPEN AT ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART



Utagawa Hiroshige (Japanese, 1797 - 1858), 10th Station: Hakone, circa 1833-4 from Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido Road, woodblock print, 1933.326.11, courtesy of Reading Public Museum, Reading, Pennsylvania

ALBANY, NY — On March 14, 2018, the Albany Institute of History & Art opened Along the Eastern Road: Hiroshige's Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido, a traveling exhibition organized by the Reading Public Museum, Reading, Pennsylvania. The exhibition, which features over fifty historic wood-block prints, runs through June 10, 2018.

This outstanding exhibition features 55 revolutionary wood-block prints by Utagawa Hiroshige (Japanese, 1797-1858), recording the scenic views along the famous "Eastern Road" that linked Edo (now Tokyo) with Kyoto, the ancient imperial capital of Japan. This popular series, known as the Fifty-Three Stations of



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the Tokaido Road, was published in 1834 and established Hiroshige's reputation as the foremost artist of the topographical landscape.

In 1832, Hiroshige journeyed along the historic Tokaido, visiting the fifty-three towns and villages that dotted the road, which provided lodging, refreshments, and souvenirs for travelers. The route was traveled frequently by noblemen, merchants, religious pilgrims and tourists. Hiroshige stayed at these overnight stations and recorded numerous views of the surrounding landscape, towns and people.

Hiroshige was trained in the tradition of the ukiyo-e — “floating world”—wood-block print making. As a genre, landscape developed late in the ukiyo-e period and was greatly influenced by the prints of Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849).

SPONSORS

Exhibition support is provided by Chester & Karen Opalka, Mr. and Mrs. Paul V. Bruno, Mr. and Mrs. James Featherstonhaugh, Mr. William M. Harris and Ms. Holly A. Katz, Donna and Fred Hershey, Richard and Karen Nicholson, Martha Waddell Olson, Sara and John Regan, Bart and Patricia Trudeau, Trudeau Architects, Sabrina Ty and Brian Fitzgerald, and New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

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The Albany Institute of History & Art is located at 125 Washington Avenue in Albany, New York. Free parking is available in the museum's lot at the corner of Elk and Dove Streets.

The exhibition galleries, Museum Shop, and Museum Café at the Albany Institute are open Wednesday 10am-5pm, Thursday 10am-8pm, Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 10am-5pm, and Sunday noon-5pm. In addition, the café and museum shop are open Tuesdays from 10am-5pm. The Research Library is open on Thursdays from 1pm-4:30pm and by appointment.

Current admission rates are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students with ID, \$6 for children aged 6-12, and free for children under 6. Albany Institute members are admitted for free. There is no charge to visit the café or museum shop. The museum offers free admission to the galleries on Thursdays from 5pm-8pm and on the First Fridays of the month from 5pm-8pm. To learn about discounts and free admission days, please refer to the Visit section of www.albanyinstitute.org.

For more information, visit www.albanyinstitute.org or call (518) 463-4478.

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Founded in 1791, the Albany Institute of History & Art is New York's oldest museum. Its collections document the Hudson Valley as a crossroads of culture, influencing the art and history of the region, the state, and the nation. With more than 35,000 objects and one million documents in the library, it is an important resource for the region, giving our community a sense of the part the Hudson Valley played in the American story, and our own place in history. Permanent and temporary exhibitions are open year-round and create a sense of place, allowing visitors to meet the people who helped shape this region. Among the museum's best-known and most-loved collections are the 19th century Hudson River School landscape paintings by artists like Thomas Cole and Frederic Church, the 19th

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century sculpture collections, and, of course, the famous Albany Mummies that came to the museum in 1909 and have been on view ever since. For more information, please visit www.albanyinstitute.org and be sure to follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute), Twitter (@AlbanyInstitute), and Instagram (AlbanyInstitute)

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