

## Love in art (Chicago, 14 Apr 07)

Hans Bjarne Thomsen

### CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

Eroticism in Japanese Print and Popular Culture

Announcing two events at the University of Chicago:

(1) a conference on Eroticism in Japanese Print and Popular Culture taking place on April 14, 2007 and (2) an exhibit of Japanese erotic prints, running to the end of April, 2007.

Love in Art: Eroticism in Japanese Print and Popular Culture

A conference organized by the  
Department of Art History at The University of Chicago

Saturday, Apr. 14, 2007

The Department of Art History, Room 157  
Cochrane-Woods Art Center  
5540 S. Greenwood Ave, Chicago IL 60637

---

9:15 am: Registration and Breakfast

9:45 am: Opening Remarks

Hans Bjarne Thomsen, Art History, University of Chicago

---

10:00 am . 12:00 pm: Panel 1

Chair: TBA

Hans Bjarne Thomsen, Art History, University of Chicago  
„On the Problem of Pornography and 'Shunga'"

Kristin Naples, Art History, University of Chicago  
„Revelations of the Flesh; Images of the Male Journey in the Passionate Prints of Kitagawa Utamaro"

Josephine Landback, Art History, University of Chicago

„Louder than Words? Representation of Loves in ‘Shunga’“

Steven Sugita-Becraft, East Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago

„Early Utagawa School and Eroticism“

---

12:00 pm . 1:00 pm: Lunch Break and Exhibition Viewing

The Center for Gender Studies, University of Chicago

5733 University Ave., Chicago IL 60637

---

1:00 pm . 3:30 pm: Panel 2

Chair: Hans Bjarne Thomsen, Art History, University of Chicago

Laura Miller, Anthropology, Loyola University

„Heisei Eroticization of a Wizard from the Heian“

Janice Katz, Japanese Art Curator, Art Institute of Chicago

„In the Guise of a Tale of Amorous Dalliance: Illustrations of the

‘Tales of Genji’ in Early Modern Japanese Art“

Elizabeth Lillehoj, Art History, DePaul University

“Sex, Restraint, and Propriety in Ukiyo-e”

Helen Nagata, Art History, Northern Illinois University

„Peering Behind the Scenes: Yoshiwara and Shimbara“

James Ketelaar, History, University of Chicago

„Reflections on the Great Mirror of Love“

---

3:30 pm . 3:45 pm: Coffee Break

---

3:45 pm . 5:45 pm: Panel 3

Chair: Jingwoan Chang, East Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago

Rebecca Zorach, Art History, University of Chicago

„The Sex of the Triangle“

Mei Mei, East Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago

„Adapting Chinese Eros: A Case Study of the Seventeenth Century Album

‘Furyu zetchozu’“

Nancy Lin, Art History, University of Chicago  
„Modern Bodies in Meiji Erotic Prints“

Mary Weismantel, Anthropology, Northwestern  
„Drink Me“

---

5:45 pm .6:00 pm: Closing Remarks

TBA

---

6:00 pm . 7:00 pm: Reception  
Lounge of the Art History Department

---

Conference Organizer: Hans Bjarne Thomsen, [thomsen@uchicago.edu](mailto:thomsen@uchicago.edu)

Student Coordinators: Nancy Lin, [nlin@uchicago.edu](mailto:nlin@uchicago.edu); Mei Mei, [mmei@uchicago.edu](mailto:mmei@uchicago.edu)

---

The above conference is held concurrently with the exhibition of Japanese  
erotic prints:

Exhibition of Japanese Erotic Prints  
at the Center for Gender Studies, University of Chicago

DATES: April 4-30, 2007

LOCATION: The Center for Gender Studies, University of Chicago  
5733 South University Ave, First Floor  
Chicago, IL 60637

TIMES: Monday-Friday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

LINKS:

<https://events.uchicago.edu/genderstudies/eventdetail.phtml?eventid=51660>

and <http://uchiblogo.uchicago.edu>

EXHIBITION DESCRIPTION:

This exhibition of Japanese Erotic Prints at the Center for Gender Studies is the first public exhibition of Shunga erotic prints in the Midwest. It features a private collection including works by Utamaro, Toyokuni I, Kunisada, and a selection of artists up to war-related erotic prints made in the Meiji period.

Shunga is an important part of the woodblock print production of early modern Japan and various scholars estimate that anywhere from one-fourth to one-fifth of the total production of woodblock prints in that time was erotic in nature. Moreover, it was a genre in which all known woodblock print artists participated. Nevertheless, local public displays of the genre have been non-existent, puzzling especially for a city that prides itself for having one of the world's finest collections of Japanese prints at the Art Institute. This exhibition is an attempt to start making up for this puzzling lacunae. A major aim of the show is to show the various contexts of the prints and will include a special emphasis on the (often ignored) words that usually form an important part of the print designs.

The show will run for a month at the Center of Gender Studies and will be co-curated by the students of Professor Hans Bjarne Thomsen's Winter 2007 woodblock print graduate seminar as a class project.

Hans Bjarne Thomsen  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Art History  
University of Chicago  
5540 South Greenwood Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60637 USA  
Tel (773) 702-0266  
Fax (773) 702-5901  
thomsen@uchicago.edu

Reference:

CONF: Love in art (Chicago, 14 Apr 07). In: ArtHist.net, Apr 15, 2007 (accessed Jan 31, 2026),  
<<https://arthist.net/archive/29225>>.