

## Hokusai opens in Melbourne this July

NGV International | 21 July 17 – 15 October 17 | Admission fees apply



*Hokusai* is the first major presentation in Australia of one of Japan’s most influential, prolific and everlastingly popular artists, Katsushika Hokusai (1760 – 1849). An influential master of Japanese *manga* and a self-proclaimed ‘drawing maniac’, Hokusai produced a body of work comprising some of the most recognisable and reproduced images in the history of Asian art, most notably ‘The great wave’.

Spanning the artist’s entire career, *Hokusai* will include more than 150 works by the artist, comprising woodblock prints, rare paintings on silk never-before-seen in Australia and hand-printed *manga* (illustrated books).

Produced in a landmark international collaboration between the NGV and the Japan Ukiyo-e Museum (JUM), which houses the world’s largest and oldest collection of traditional Japanese woodblock prints, the exhibition will include the complete sets of Hokusai’s five career-defining series – all produced by the artist during his seventies and rarely on display in their totality – including *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji*, 1830–34, which features his iconic work *The great wave off Kanagawa*, c. 1830.

The exhibition will also feature all fifteen editions of *The Hokusai Manga*, the artist’s irreverent homage to Japanese humorous illustrations, which had an indelible impact on the development of contemporary *manga* in Japan and positioned Hokusai as a pioneer of the popular form.

“Katsushika Hokusai is considered one of Japan’s greatest and enduringly popular artists. His moving and dramatic compositions, including *The great wave*, show the coexistence between humanity and the awesome power of nature, a relationship that is as relevant today as it was in the nineteenth century,” said Tony Ellwood, Director, NGV.

“The unprecedented Australian exhibition, *Hokusai*, offers audiences a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to witness the artist’s influential legacy in one of the most comprehensive exhibitions ever staged outside of Japan,” said Ellwood.

*The great wave off Kanagawa* was acquired for the NGV Collection in 1909. In *Hokusai*, this work, rarely displayed due to its fragility and light sensitivity, will be exhibited alongside a corresponding early impression of the same great wave from JUM’s collection, offering a fascinating scholarly assessment of the prints 180 years after they were created.

Hokusai is lauded for his wondrously colourful images that celebrate everyday life and people’s relationship to nature, often depicting the merchant class of Edo period Japan in recognisable situations and landscapes.

Hokusai’s work had a transformative impact on Japanese art; he was at the forefront of new technologies, using the latest and most vibrant colours as they became available, such as Prussian blue, and his experimentation with design, composition and perspective introduced a three-dimensionality to the traditionally two-dimensional Japanese pictorial aesthetic.

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## MEDIA RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA

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Hokusai will be on display at NGV International, 180 St Kilda Road, Melbourne, Australia from 21 July 17 – 15 October 2017. Tickets and information are available from the NGV website [NGV.MELBOURNE](http://NGV.MELBOURNE).  
Adult \$16 | Concession \$13 | Child (5 – 15 years) \$7 | Family (2 adults + 3 children) \$41

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### Image Caption:

**Katsushika Hokusai**

Japanese 1760–1849

*The great wave off Kanagawa* c. 1830

from the *Thirty-six views of Mt Fuji* series

1826–33

colour woodblock

25.7 x 37.7 cm (image and sheet)

National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

Felton Bequest, 1909 (426-2)