

HIGO PROVINCE, GO-KANOSHO

BY:

UTAGAWA HIROSHIGE

Ukiyo-e print maker

BORN: 1797, Tokyo - JAPAN

DIED: 1858, Tokyo - JAPAN

YEAR MADE: c. 1856

MATERIAL: water-base inks,
woodblock, handmade paper

'Go-Kanosho' is a Ukiyo-e wood block print depicting Japan's Higo province. It shows a mountain and a large tree bridging a dramatic, deep sided and cloud filled ravine. Looking closely, you see a person on the tree-bridge carrying two bundles of wood attached to a pole.

This print is one of 69 that were bound together with a contents page and a print of Edo (Tokyo), to make the book 'Famous Views of the Sixty-odd provinces'. The prints inside, amongst other stand-out features of a particular place, picture shrines and temples alongside waterfalls, beaches and mountains. Some were inspired by old travel guidebooks.

Utawaga Hiroshige was trained in a traditional Japanese way, and was given the name of his teacher when he was thought to be a good print maker. Print making at the time involved many skilled people, each with a particular task. It included making paper, mixing inks, carving wood, putting ink on blocks, and pressing paper onto the ink, taking care to remove it at just the right time. The prints were made at a time of change in Japan. Permission to go on journeys became available and Western trade ships brought new opportunities. Ukiyo-e prints were taken to Europe and America and shown in exhibitions as 'art from Japan', and creative ideas exchanged. It is interesting to reflect on where this had a positive outcome, and where it did not.



LEEDS
ART
GALLERY

Using your imagination, become the person walking along the tree-bridge. WHAT do you see and feel?

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Notice natural textures to help colour in our simple outline.

六十余列名所圖会

肥後
五ノ庄

