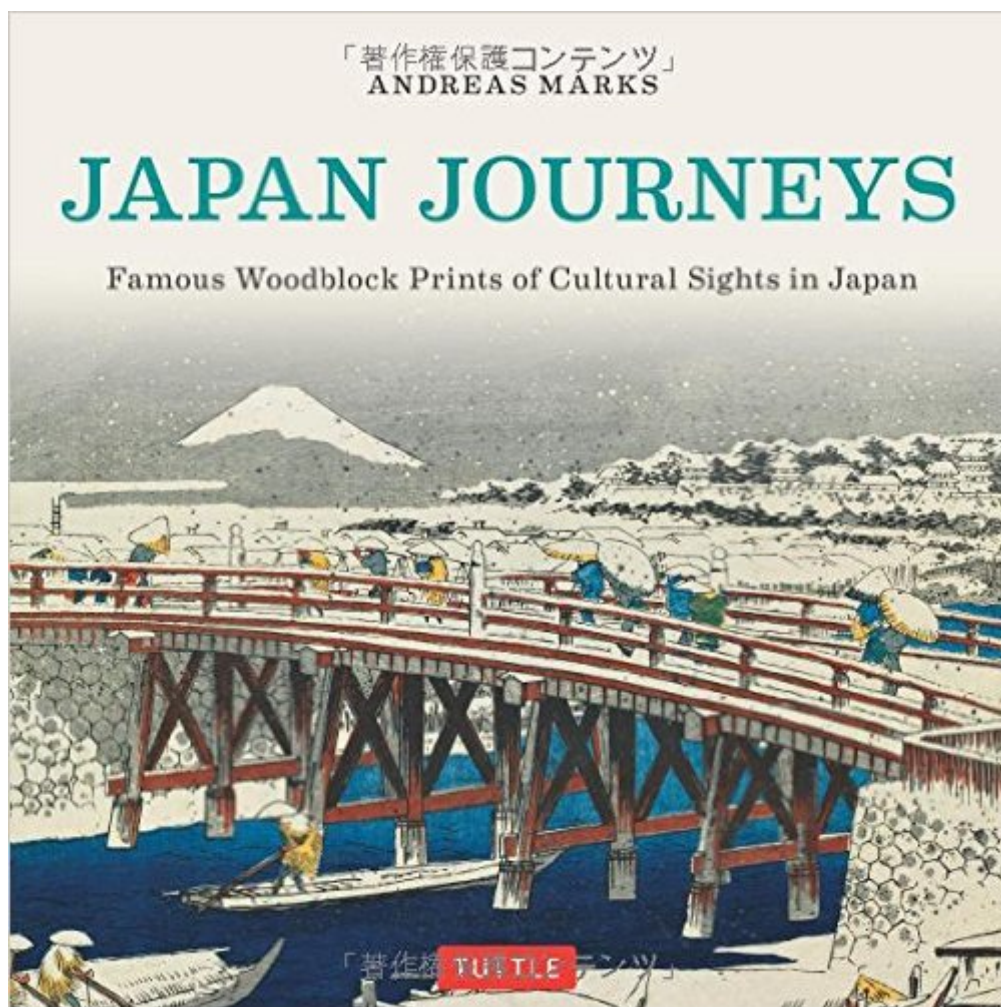


The book was found

Japan Journeys: Famous Woodblock Prints Of Cultural Sights In Japan



Synopsis

Presenting classic Japanese woodblock prints, Japan Journeys offers a unique perspective on the country's most famous travel destinations. Art historian Andreas Marks has gathered together approximately two hundred Japanese woodblock prints depicting scenic spots and cultural icons that still delight visitors today. Many of the prints are by masters such as Utagawa Hiroshige, Kitagawa Utamaro, and Utagawa Kunisada, and currently hang in prestigious galleries and museums worldwide. Katsuhika Hokusai, the artform's most celebrated artist, is also well represented, with many prints from his "Fifty-three Stations of the Tokaido Road" series and "Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji" series, including his world-renowned "Great Wave" print. In addition to prints showcasing Japan's natural beauty, Marks' carefully curated selection depicts roads and railways; favorite pastimes, such as blossom viewing and attending festivals; beloved entertainment, such as kabuki theater; the fashions they wore, and the food they ate. Marks is a leading expert on Japanese woodblock prints, and his illuminating captions provide background context to the scenes depicted. Images of Japan are a continual source of fascination and delight for visitors and armchair travelers alike, and this original gift book also provides a valuable resource for art historians, scholars, and anyone interested in Japanese art, history, and traditional culture.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Japan Journeys is a lovely book featuring woodblock art from the 19th and 20th centuries. That's also a period of time when Japanese started to travel more. This 168-page hardcover offers a glimpse into the lifestyle of the Japanese back in those days using the predominant visual media of

that time, the woodblock. The artworks look really beautiful although there's some degradation due to how old some of those pieces are, but most are restored quite well. The book claims there are 523 pieces of artwork but I see that each page has only either one or two pieces featured. There are works from famous woodblock artists such as Utagawa Hiroshige, Katsuhika Hokusai (famous for The Great Wave), Kawase Hasui and many more. What's interesting about the book is you get to see the traditional lifestyles of the Japanese back in those days, how life is like on the streets. There are scenes of hot springs, blossom viewing, kimono, tea-drinking, sumo, kabuki, geisha, Japanese bridges, mountains, festivals, temples, buildings and many more. Most artworks are printed across the length or height of the book. They look great. The composition, subject matter are captured wonderfully. The accompanying captions also provide insight to the images. If you have visited Japan, you may probably recognise a few familiar sights, such as the temples or architectural details that have remained the same over the years. The places featured are Tokyo, around Tokyo, Hakone, Mount Fuji, Kyoto and a handful of other sights around Japan. One thing that's missing is they didn't talk specifically about how these woodblocks are made, and how the prints are coloured. I'm impressed by many of the artworks that almost resemble pen and ink work with that high level of details.

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