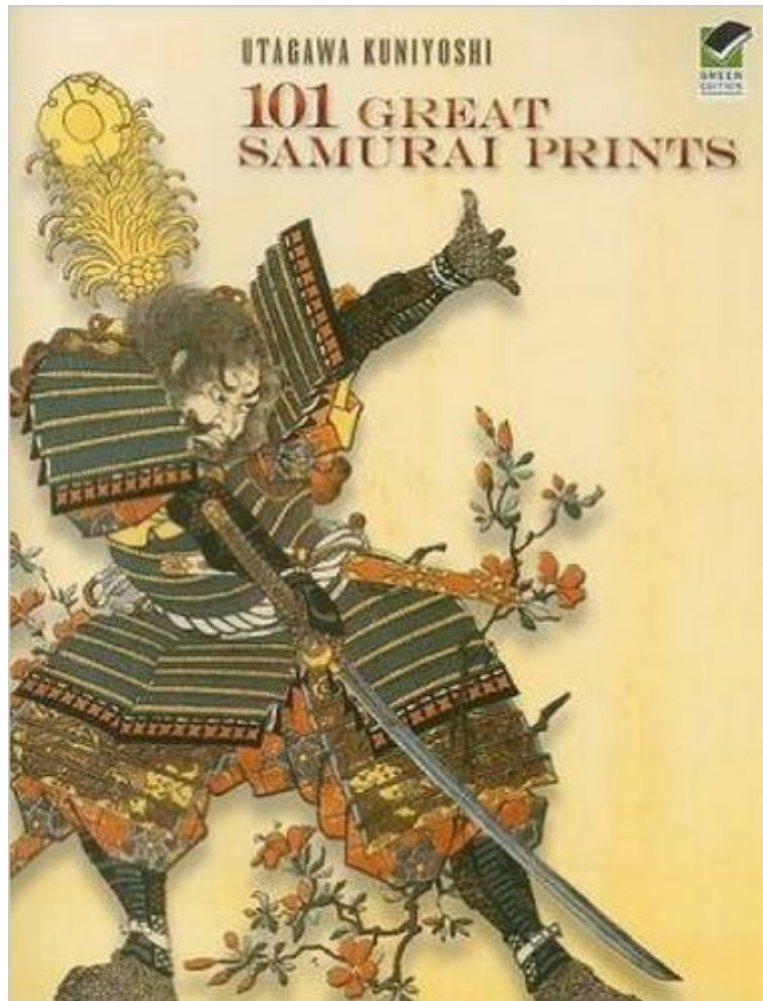


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# 101 Great Samurai Prints (Dover Fine Art, History Of Art)



## Synopsis

One of the last great names in the Japanese ukiyo-e style, Utagawa Kuniyoshi was an undisputed master of the warrior woodblock print. Born in Tokyo in 1797, his talent became evident by the tender age of 12, when he became an apprentice to a famous print master. Starting out with vivid illustrations of cultural icons — including Kabuki actors and Japanese heroes — he moved on to a unique treatment of warrior prints, incorporating elements of dreams, omens, and daring feats that characterized his distinctive style. These dramatic eighteenth-century illustrations represent the pinnacle of his craft. One hundred and one full-color portraits of legendary samurai pulse with movement, passion, and remarkably fine detail. A must for collectors of Japanese art and a perfect first work for those who want to start their own collection, it includes brief captions and a new introduction.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The title of this book pretty much says it all. "101 Great Samurai Prints" is exactly what you get, all by Utagawa Kuniyoshi, one of the last great masters of the Japanese style of woodblock printing known as Ukiyo-e, meaning Pictures of the Floating World. Kuniyoshi was an apprentice of Utagawa Toyokuni, although he surpassed his master in both talent and fame. Kuniyoshi first rose to fame for his portrayal of heroic characters, such as his series "One hundred and eight heroes of the popular Suikoden all told" based on the Chinese book "Water Margins." He was especially known for the individual flair he could give to the heroes, making them more than just carbon copies of each other

but living images with personality and verve. The images in this series are taken from two Kuniyoshi series, "Heroic Biographies from the "Tale of Grand Pacification" and "The Faithful Samurai." The book is roughly the size of the original prints, being a little under 9 X 11 inches, and the colors are vibrant and beautiful. Each image is accompanied by text explaining shortly what the image is and what story it is portraying. The complete Japanese text on each image is not translated, but there is enough to let you know what is going on. Some of my favorites are number 37, showing a pale and bloody samurai giving battle although pierced with arrows, or number 99, where a samurai of low character and smug face defends himself behind an overturned basket of charcoal, where Kuniyoshi had sprinkled actual charcoal on the image to create a more realistic effect. This is really a great collection of Kuniyoshi's samurai pictures. It is somewhat no-frills, but for the price you get a hundred and one beautiful images by one of the great masters of Japanese art.

This book has excellent samurai images with great detail. I really enjoyed the explanations of the prints that explained some of the subtle details. If you enjoy samurai or Japanese art, this book is worth the few bucks.

Before I purchase this book, I was a little hesitant. As a matter of fact, I am very picky about the quality of the art books. For this sake, I've ever borrowed two of the following books from the libraries, which are the Ultimate collection of the same topic. 1. Heroes of the Grand Pacification: Kuniyoshi's Taiheiki eiyuden 2. Kuniyoshi: The Faithful Samurai Yes, agree that if you are ready to spend \$200 to buy the ultimate version, that is fine. However, if you only want to spend 1/20 of the cost and enjoy 80% of the content, this book is definitely your choice. BTW, this book contains MOST of the content of the above two books. So, don't worry about missing any significant figures. It contains all the MEAT, nothing else! For average reader (not professional or scholars), this book is your ONLY choice!

this book has great samurai prints as promised. also has short explanations of who the men were and some interesting commentary. A must for those interested in samurai dress and weaponry as it shows many atypical types of dress.

Like the book and love the prints. Only disappointment was the fact that 50 of the images came from a series depicting the 47 Ronin. There were images of all 47 warriors, plus their victim, plus the catering boy, and an extra of the disgraced leader. The story of the 47 Ronin is a great one, but half

the book was a collection of one series of prints. The first half of the book had quite a bit of variety, but the whole second half was made up of characters from 1 story by one artist. If that doesn't bother you, the book is great. If you are looking for a wide variety of artists and styles, you will most likely be a little disappointed.

Great pictures very detailed! They have brief captions at bottom allowing picture to have the main focus on the page. All around good coffee table book or good for collections a must have for fans of Japanese art.

I have been an enthusiastic fan most of my life of anything to do with the martial arts and the warrior arts. The Japanese Samurai "Code of Bushido" (Way of the warrior) has always been part of my lifestyle having trained in numerous martial arts (Judo, Jujitsu, Karate-do, Kenjutsu, Wakizashi-Jutsu etc.) systems over the years. I have also been interested in Japanese poetry (Haiku) and art forms like the Japanese style of woodblock prints. I recently purchased this wonderful volume (101 Great samurai Prints by Utagawa Kuniyoshi) of Samurai prints for a reasonable price on . Even though I have seen many of these Japanese wood block prints in the past, what makes this book unique is that on each page they not only have a full color print of a Samurai, but it also has a short explanation on the bottom of the page of who the drawing is supposed to be and what it means. Some of the prints include the following Samurai: Oda Nobunaga, who was a famous war lord, the Samurai commander Imagawa Yoshimoto, Takenaka Hanbee Shigeharu, who was the intellectual advisor to a military commander, The Samurai Skai Ukon Masanao with his Katana (Long sword) drawn, Yamanaka Shikanosuke Yukimori, a Samurai in full armor and numerous other beautiful prints. If you are into the Japanese martial arts and artistic arts, you will love this fantastic set of beautiful Samurai Prints. Rating: 5 Stars. Joseph J. Truncale (Author: The Samurai Soul: An old warrior's poetic tribute).

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