

V&A Academy

CITY LIFE IN JAPANESE PRINTS

V&A

Introduction



The woodblock prints and printed books of Japan's Edo period (1615-1868) capture the vibrance and dynamism of life in the thriving metropolis. Rich in detail, colour and community, these works document the celebrity of Edo's actors, wrestlers and beauties, while also sharing glimpses of everyday lives at all levels of society. Focusing on the museum's exceptional Japanese collections, join V&A curators Dr Mary Redfern and Amy Raphael to discover how woodblock prints reflected and invigorated Japan's urban culture.

This half-day study session will include a guided visit to the Sumō Wrestling prints display in the Toshiba Gallery of Japanese Art, and first-hand study of select items in the stores.

Information

Friday 20 March 2026

10:30 – 13.00

This study morning will be held on site at V&A South Kensington.

All lecture resource sheets and presentation slides will be made available after the study day.

Suitable for ages 18 and over.

Friday 20 March 2026

City Life in Japanese Prints

V&A South Kensington

Dr Helen Glaister

10:30 Introductory lecture

Mary Redfern

11.00 Group A- Gallery talk

Amy Raphael

Group B- Object session

Mary Redfern and Helen Glaister

12.00 Group A- Object session

Mary Redfern and Helen Glaister

Group B- Gallery talk

Amy Raphael

Note: V&A Academy programmes are subject to change without notice.