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Art Institute of Chicago Showcases Yoshida Family Prints

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Valley of Butterflies (Tanima no cho), 1979, Yoshida Chizuko,
(© 2013 Chizuko, Takasuke, and Ayomi Yoshida)

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“The Yoshida Family: Three Generations of Japanese Print Artists” is being presented at the Art Institute of Chicago July 7–September 30.

The Yoshida family “has produced several names that have been central to the major Japanese print movements of the 20th century,” the museum says. Yoshida Hiroshi (1876–1950) the family patriarch was an influential figure in the in the history of woodblock printing. His shin-hanga style and landscape images are popular among collectors from across the globe as well as in Japan. After his death, the family adopted new styles, such as abstraction, and began to experiment with work influenced by artists from other cultures.

Yoshida Toshi, Hiroshi’s oldest son, struggled to establish his identity as an artist. “Later in his career, he began to make prints that were stylistically very different from those of his father, including line-based portraits of women,” the museum writes. Hiroshi’s youngest son Hodaka Yoshida started out as a Modernist but later shifted to the medium of wood-block prints in 1950. “Having been instilled with a love for travel by his father, Hodaka conveyed his reactions to different locales in his artwork. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, he created energetic works inspired by his trips to Mexico,” the museum adds.

Yoshida Chizuko, the wife of Hodaka who was trained as an abstract painter, started making woodblock prints after she married into the family. At the age of 62, Hodaka and Toshi’s mother started exploring sensual, abstracted floral themes. Perhaps the most conceptual of the family’s artists is the current generation’s Yoshida Ayomi. According to the museum, “her prints serve as records of the true focus of her work — the carving process.”

The exhibition features works that were a gift from the Yoshida family to the art institute in 2012. It also commemorates the career of Yoshida Chizuko, who passed away in 2017.

“The Yoshida Family: Three Generations of Japanese Print Artists” runs from July 7 through September 30, 2018, at the Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60603, USA.

For details, visit: <http://www.blouinartinfo.com/galleryguide-venues/286620/museum-overview>

Click on the slideshow for a sneak peek at the exhibition.

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