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Katsushika Hokusai, 1760–1849

Selections from the Large Flower Series, ca. 1832

Color woodblock prints (nishiki-e)

In creating his flower series, Hokusai may have been influenced by the frequent publication, from the early 19th century on, of modest woodblock-printed picture books featuring the latest botanic cultivars. These books were in high demand as gardening became a popular pastime at all levels of society. Flowers have been an abiding motif in the work of poets, painters, and textile designers throughout Japan's history.

Poppies

Bequest of Richard P. Gale 74.1.206 Cat. no. 192

Hydrangea and Swallow

Bequest of Richard P. Gale 74.1.215 Cat. no. 198

Rose Mallow and Sparrow

Bequest of Richard P. Gale 74.1.213 Cat. no. 196

Chrysanthemums and Horsefly

Bequest of Richard P. Gale 74.1.210 Cat. no. 195

Lilies

Bequest of Richard P. Gale 74.1.214 Cat. no. 197

Frog and Morning Glories

Bequest of Richard P. Gale 74.1.208 Cat. no. 193