

# Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston, SC, Celebrates and Honors Japanese Art

The Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston, SC, home to one of the most significant collections of Japanese woodblock prints in the Southeast, will present two new exhibitions that reveal the complexity and importance of Japanese art and how its history collides with Charleston. The exhibitions, *Lasting Impressions: Japanese Prints from the Read-Simms Collection* and *Japonisme in Charleston: Alice Smith and Her Circle*, will be on view in galleries eight and nine through Oct. 3, 2021.

“We are thrilled to present two new special exhibitions that demonstrate the global significance of Japanese art,” says Angela Mack, executive director at the Gibbes Museum of Art. “Our visitors will have the opportunity to see world-class examples of Japanese woodblock prints from a collection that was formed in Charleston in the early decades of the 20th century. These images by luminaries like Sharaku, Hokusai, and Hiroshige had a tremendous impact on artists worldwide from Monet, Degas, and Van Gogh to artists working right here in Charleston. Thanks to the keen eyes of the original collectors the Gibbes is fortunate to have in its collection both exceptional examples of popular prints like Hokusai’s Red Fuji as well as several rare one-of-a-kind images.”



“Carolina Paroquet”, 1935, By Anna Heyward Taylor (American, 1879 - 1956); Wood-block print on paper; Gift of Anna Heyward Taylor; 1937.003.0005; Image courtesy of the Gibbes Museum of Art

beautiful, fully illustrated catalogue featuring entries by Japanese fine art specialist Sebastian Izzard and an in-depth essay on the collectors by Sara C. Arnold and Stephen G. Hoffius.

The second exhibition being presented is, *Japonisme in Charleston: Alice Smith and Her Circle*. Japonisme is a French term coined to describe the craze for Japanese art and design that first gripped the West in the late nineteenth century. In a companion exhibition to *Lasting Impressions*, the wave of enthusiasm for the Japanese aesthetic in Charleston will be explored through the works of native artist Alice Ravenel Huger Smith who was one of many American artists to react to the western dissemination of Japanese prints. A close friend and neighbor of collector Motte Alston Read, Smith had unfettered access to Read’s growing library of Japanese prints and she studied them intently. A watercolor specialist and one of Charleston’s most prolific artists, Smith discovered a shared reverence for nature in the work of Japanese artists, which greatly impacted her artistic trajectory. *Japonisme in Charleston: Alice Smith and her Circle* will feature works by Smith and other Charleston artists who embraced the tenets and techniques of Japanese art.

To coincide with the exhibits, *Lasting Impressions: Japanese Prints from the Read-Simms Collection* and *Japonisme in Charleston: Alice Smith and Her Circle*, the Gibbes will host related programming. For more information and a full listing of programming, visit ([www.gibbesmuseum.org](http://www.gibbesmuseum.org)).

Home to the Carolina Art Association, established in 1858, the Gibbes Museum of Art is recognized among the oldest arts organizations in the United States. Housing one of the foremost collections of American Art from the 18th century to the present, the museum’s mission is to enhance lives through art by engaging people of every background and experience with art and artists of enduring quality and by providing opportunities to learn, to discover, to enjoy and to be inspired by the creative process.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or visit ([www.gibbesmuseum.org](http://www.gibbesmuseum.org)).



TOSHUSAI SHARAKU (active 1794-95) “Ichikawa Danjuro VI as Arakawa Taro Takesada” 11/1794. Color woodblock print, 13 x 9 1/4 inches. Image courtesy of Gibbes Museum of Art

*Lasting Impressions: Japanese Prints from the Read-Simms Collection* will showcase 60 exceptional and rare prints amassed by Charleston collector Motte Alston Read and his sister, Mary Read Hume Simms of New Orleans, during the first decades of the 20th century, a period often referred to as the “Golden Age” of print collecting. The Read-Simms Collection was donated to the Gibbes in 1947 and reflects the full range of popular print subjects by master Ukiyo-e artists of the Edo period, from dramatic Kabuki theater actors, portrayed by Suzuki Harunobu and Tōshūsai Sharaku in the 18th century, to vibrant landscapes by Utagawa Hiroshige and Katsushika Hokusai in the 19th century.

The exhibition is accompanied by a

## Middleton Place & Edmondston-Alston House in Charleston, SC, Offers Exhibits of Works by Alice Ravenel Huger Smith

Middleton Place Foundation in Charleston, SC, is pleased to announce that Middleton Place National Historic Landmark and the Edmondston-Alston House in downtown Charleston will jointly mount a special exhibition of works by Alice Ravenel Huger Smith in connection with the Mar. 1, 2021, launch of the book *Alice: Alice Ravenel Huger Smith, Charleston Renaissance Artist*. Alice Smith was a leading artist in the movement that sparked economic revival and historic preservation in Charleston in the decades between the two world wars.

The book and the exhibition provide unique insights into Alice as an author, illustrator, printmaker, painter, teacher, and historian from the perspective of her family and close friend.

Opening on Mar. 1, 2021, and continuing through Jan. 5, 2022, the special exhibits correspond with the launch of the book and allow the public the opportunity to see over 40 works from private and public collections of Alice Smith’s art featured in the book.

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deane v bowers

MIXED MEDIA ARTIST



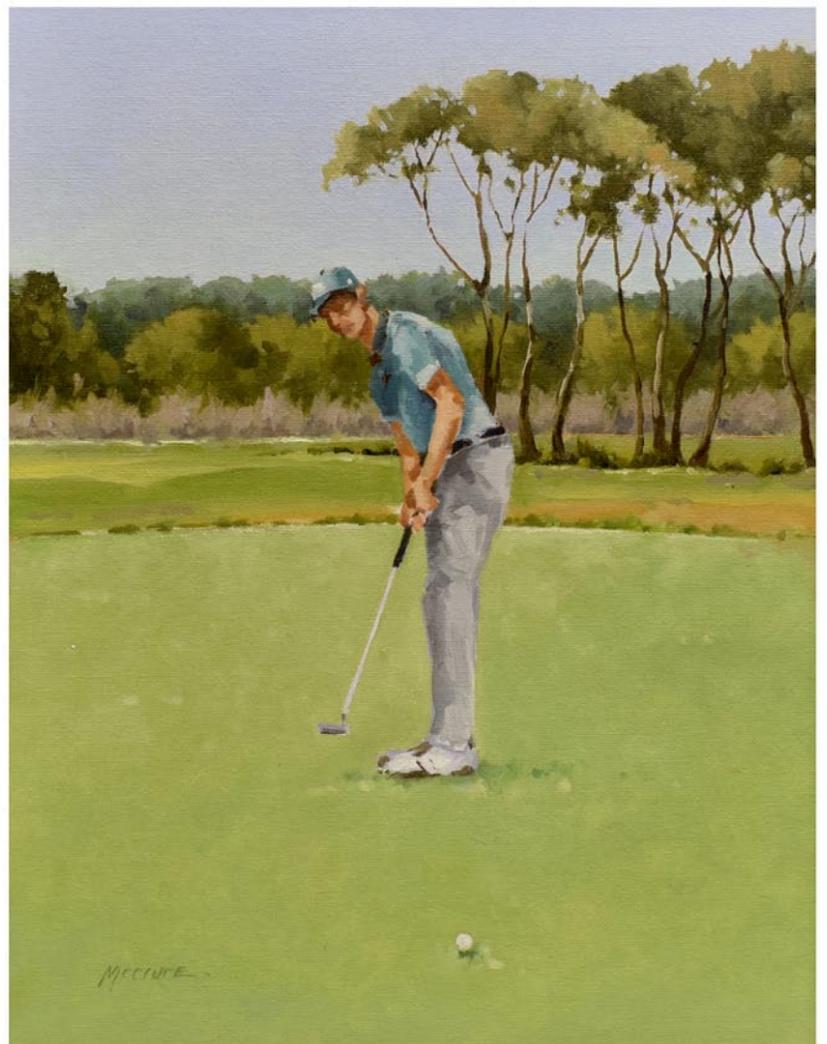
Deane V Bowers Art

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Works are on view at the Public Works Art Center in Summerville, SC, through June 5th, 2021

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