



Institutskolloquium HS 2020

«Celebrating Fifty Years of East Asian Art History at the University of Zurich»

«Dating Hokusai's Great Wave and his Fuji Series»

Em. Prof. Dr. Matthi Forrer

Wednesday, 21 October 2020, 18:15–19:45

Zoom online video conference

(Zoom video conference opens at 18:00, the lecture begins at 18:15)



Katsushika Hokusai's *The Great Wave*, also known under its full name of *Under the Wave off Kanagawa*, is arguably the most famous example of Japanese art. It was created around 1831 as part of a series of woodblock prints called *Thirty-Six Views of Mount Fuji (Fugaku sanjū-rokkei)*. The breathtaking composition of this woodblock print is said to have inspired Debussy's *La Mer* and Rilke's *Der Berg*, and it has become an icon of world art. Hokusai cleverly played with perspective to make Japan's grandest mountain appear as a small triangular mound within the hollow of the cresting wave, in a landscape created using a palette of indigo and imported Prussian blue.

Em. Prof. Dr. Matthi Forrer has spent a lifetime studying Japanese woodblock prints, including the works of Hokusai. He has written extensively on Japanese prints and on Hokusai. In this process, he became the most famous Western print scholar. In this talk, he will be discussing the *Great Wave* and the *Mt. Fuji* series from which it came, indicating, among other points, the problems of dating this iconic series. For anyone interested in Japanese art, this is not an opportunity to be missed.

The public lecture series is organized by the department for East Asian Art (Institute of Art History, University of Zurich), and is supported by the Swiss-Japanese Chamber of Commerce (SJCC) and the Swiss-Japanese Society (SJG). For further information on the anniversary lecture series, please contact Sabine Bradel ([Sabine.Bradel@khist.uzh.ch](mailto:Sabine.Bradel@khist.uzh.ch)) or visit us at: [www.khist.uzh.ch/KGOA50](http://www.khist.uzh.ch/KGOA50)