FEMINA JAPONICA

Constructing Womanhood & Femininity in Japanese Prints

Opening reception Friday, December 2 5:30 pm, Clark Humanities Museum (Scripps College)

Femina Japonica is curated by students in Professor Rika Hiro’s Art History course on Japanese Prints. It features ukiyo-e and other prints from the Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery’s permanent collection, ranging from the early Edo period (1603-1868) to the Heisei period (1989-2019). The exhibition presents five themes to explore how womanhood and femininity have been constructed through prints: 1) representation of ideal women through bijin ("beauties"); 2) explorations of agency and domesticity; 3) female engagement with spirituality and nature; 4) works by female printmakers; and 5) femininity expressed through objects and other mediums, including textiles and photography. Femina Japonica showcases womanhood and femininity both in the subjects represented and in the creators themselves by highlighting female printmakers, who have been invisible in the museum practice and scholarly research.

Curators: Caroline Bowen, Nia Carroll, Eric Corona, Alexis Gero, Nick Grisanti, Jinyan Gu, Erina Iwasa, Ryann Liljenstolpe, Caro Liu, Corey Solorio LaDuca, Clark Louis, Sophie Mannes, Thomas Martinez, Molly Murphey, Caetano Pérez-Marchant, Jasmine Sloan, Mila Stanislawek-Stribling, Wenyan Wang