Japanologie Frankfurt am Main

Vortrag Dr. Ellis Tinios (Leeds University, UK): "Exploring Japanese Illustrated Books"

Im Rahmen der Ausstellung "Japan auf Reisen" im Klingspor-Museum Offenbach



Japanese illustrated woodblock printed books produced between the 1660 and 1900 represent a remarkable achievement in terms of their technical perfection, variety of subject matter, and high aesthetic standards. Artists created designs exclusively for reproduction in book form and many enhanced their reputations through those publications. No comparable sustained tradition of commercially produced, artistically significant picture books existed in China or the West. In no other country do illustrated books attain so high a degree of significance relative to the national art as a whole. This genre, so alien to Western experience, had long been misunderstood and neglected, even by students of the art of Japan. Dr. Ellis Tinios will introduce these books and consider the factors that have hitherto inhibited wider recognition of their significance.

Ellis Tinios is Honorary Lecturer in History, University of Leeds, and Visiting Researcher at the Art Research Center, Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto. His recent publications include *Understanding Japanese woodblock-printed illustrated books* with Suzuki Jun (Brill, 2013) and *Japanese Prints: Ukiyo-e in Edo, 1700-1900* (British Museum Press, 2011).

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