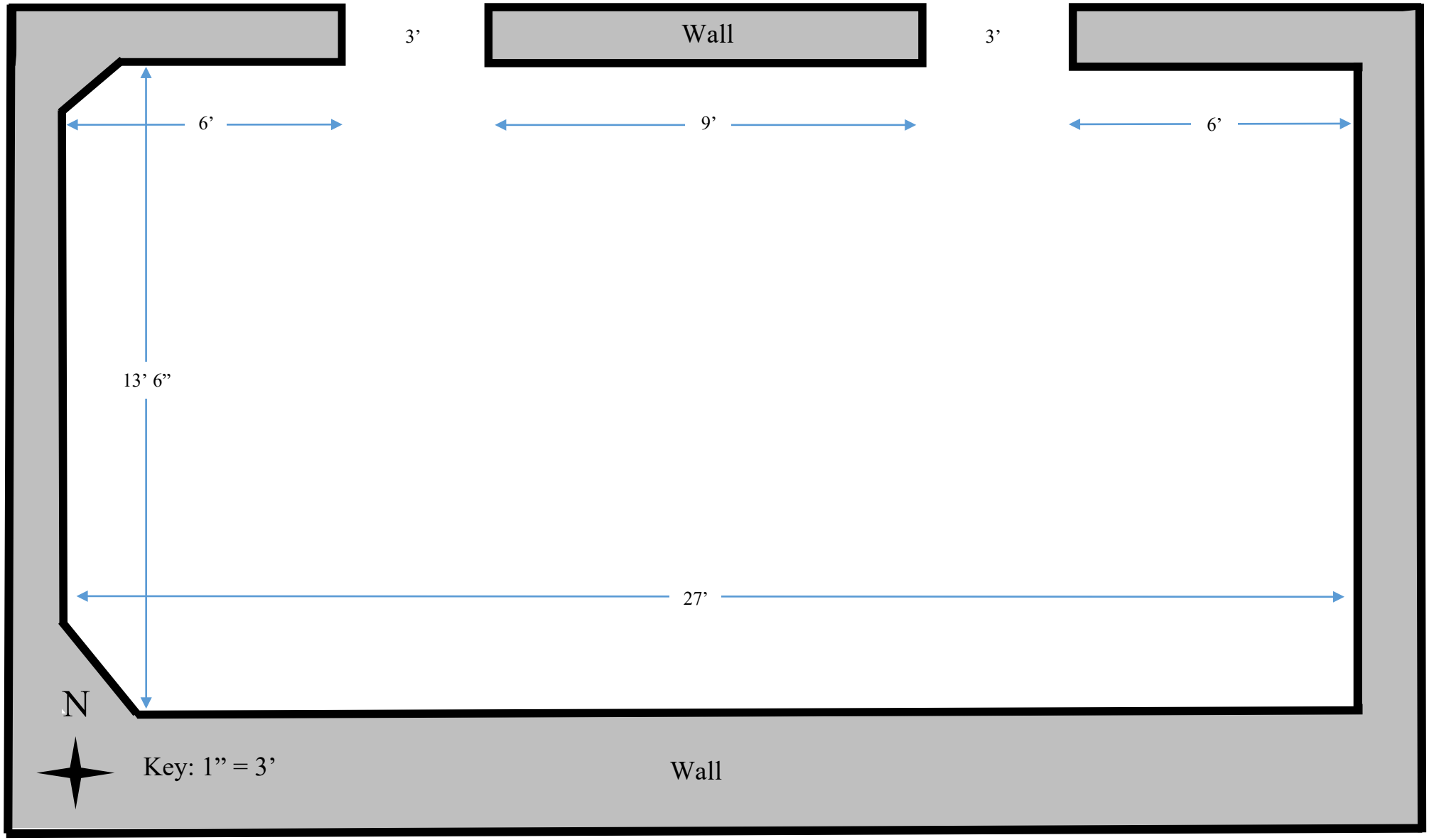
Allen Memorial Art Museum

Be a Museum Curator! Design your own exhibition of Japanese woodblock prints

Below is the floor plan for a gallery in the Allen Memorial Art Museum. Use the images of Japanese woodblock prints in the AMAM collection to arrange the space like a museum curator. See the next page for instructions.



Instructions

- Stickers of these works can be mailed to you for free! Please fill out the form at tinyurl.com/vtftajp.
- For instant fun, print the activity packet (landscape orientation), then cut and paste the works onto the floor plan.
- Or you can print the stickers yourself using Avery 6570 1¼ x 1¾" white labels (tinyurl.com/tpoqz8s).

What do curators think about when designing an exhibition?

- What is the theme? In the checklist, can you find the work of art that would not fit into an exhibition of Japanese woodblock prints? (see answer below)
- What other themes can you think of? What works of art best represent that theme?
- How will you arrange them in the gallery space? Think about placing something dramatic across from the entrance to draw someone into the space.
- What looks good together? When works of art are hung next to each other, it can start a conversation about them.
- For older kids, calculate how many prints you can hang on each wall if each 14 x 9” print is in a 22 x 16” frame (careful, reverse the dimensions for horizontal prints). Remember to save space for labels (7 x 6.5”) and space between each print so they can breathe (this can vary, but let’s pick 20” for this assignment).
- Now write a wall text panel to explain your show (approx. 150-200 words, less for younger kids).

Answer: *Prunus Blossoms*. There are two reasons. The artist, Gāo Fènghàn, is Chinese, not Japanese. Also, this work is a painting (ink and color on paper), not a woodblock print.

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Checklist

Koson Ohara (Japanese, 1877–1945)
Birds and Berries in Snow, 1930s
Color woodblock print
Gift of Sarah G. Epstein (OC 1948)
1997.41.37

Koson Ohara (Japanese, 1877–1945)
Egret in Snow, ca. 1926-35
Color woodblock print
Gift of Sarah G. Epstein (OC 1948)
1997.41.67

Hasui Kawase (Japanese, 1883–1957)
Honmonji Temple, 1931
Color woodblock print
Gift of Sarah G. Epstein (OC 1948)
1997.41.20

Hasui Kawase (Japanese, 1883–1957)
Snow at Saishoin Temple, 1936
Color woodblock print
Gift of Sarah G. Epstein (OC 1948)
1997.41.27

Utagawa Hiroshige I (Japanese, 1797–1858)
Autumn Foliage on the Precincts of Akiba Shrine at Ukeji, no. 91 from the series *One Hundred Views of Famous Places in Edo*, 1858
Color woodblock print
Mary A. Ainsworth Bequest
1950.1435

Hasui Kawase (Japanese, 1883–1957)
Spring Moon, 1932
Color woodblock print
Gift of Sarah G. Epstein (OC 1948)
1997.41.22

Gāo Fènghàn (Chinese, 1683–1749)
Prunus Blossoms, from the album *Flowers, Rocks, Bamboo, and Landscapes*, 1733
Album leaf, ink and color on paper
Gift of Carol S. Brooks
in honor of her father,
George J. Schlenker, and
R. T. Miller Jr. Fund
1997.29.1L

Utagawa Hiroshige I (Japanese, 1797–1858)
The Drum Bridge from the Wisteria Arbor on the Precincts of the Tenjin Shrine at Kameido, no. 57 from the series *One Hundred Views of Famous Places in Edo*, 1856
Color woodblock print
Mary A. Ainsworth Bequest
1950.1421

Tokuriki Tomikichiro (Japanese, 1902–2000)
Kiyomizu Temple in Spring, from the series *Famous Places in New Kyoto*, 1969–70
Color woodblock print
Gift from the collection of
Brondy Shanker
2016.43.64

Utagawa Hiroshige I (Japanese, 1797–1858)
Carp Banner by Suido Bridge at Surugadai, no. 63 from the series *One Hundred Views of Famous Places in Edo*, 1857
Color woodblock print
Mary A. Ainsworth Bequest
1950.1408

Utagawa Hiroshige I (Japanese, 1797–1858)
Willow at Ichikoku Bridge with a View of Eight Bridges, no. 62 from the series *One Hundred Views of Famous Places in Edo*, 1856
Color woodblock print
Mary A. Ainsworth Bequest
1950.1406

Utagawa Hiroshige I (Japanese, 1797–1858)
Sightseeing Boats for Travelers on Sparrow Bay at Kanazawa, from the series *The Tōkaidō*, 1919
Color woodblock print
Mary A. Ainsworth Bequest
1950.1495.6

What does the label tell us?

Artist's name (nationality, dates), *title* of the work of art, date when it was made, medium (or what it is made out of), credit line (who gave it to the museum), accession number (every object in the museum is assigned a unique number based on when it was received. For example, many of these prints were gifted to the museum in 1950 or 1997).

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