
EVENT PROGRAM

Uncovering Japanese Tattoo



The Japan Foundation, Sydney in cooperation with the Art Gallery of NSW presents *Uncovering Japanese Tattoo*, an event program running from September 21 to November 12, 2016. The program centres on two **exhibitions** and includes **public talks** and a **live tattoo demonstration**.

[Uncovering Japanese Tattoo](#) explores the art of traditional Japanese tattoo, from its roots in ukiyo-e woodblock printing to its place in contemporary society. Its featured exhibitions are *Perseverance: Japanese Tattoo Tradition in a Modern World*, a photographic exhibition of contemporary Japanese tattoo at the Japan Foundation Gallery (Sept 28 – Nov 12), and *Yoshitoshi: One Hundred Aspects of the Moon*, a series of ukiyo-e woodblock prints by 19th century Japanese artist Tsukioka Yoshitoshi presented by the Art Gallery of NSW (Aug 20 – Nov 20).

The *Uncovering Japanese Tattoo* program sets up a dialogue between ukiyo-e and Japanese tattoo, two closely related art forms that are now worlds apart. Japanese tattoo developed

and flourished alongside ukiyo-e woodblock prints, and they both influenced each other. But while ukiyo-e died out with the rise of the printing press and went on to become part of the Japanese art canon, Japanese tattoo remains a living tradition that has been largely overlooked by the art world. It also has a vexed relationship with its home country: people with tattoos are regularly refused entry into hot springs and bathhouses, and the city of Osaka is cracking down on public servants with tattoos. *Uncovering Japanese Tattoo* explores the shared roots of ukiyo-e and Japanese tattoo, and invites us to reflect on their respective places in society today.

EXHIBITIONS

Hailing from the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, *Perseverance* brings together a series of tattoo works by seven internationally-acclaimed contemporary tattoo artists: **Horishiki, Horitomo, Junii, Miyazo, Ryudaibori** (formerly Horitaka), **Shige and Yokohama Horiken**. Works by other artists are included to show the breadth and fusion of styles being practised within the world of Japanese tattooing. Meanwhile, the ukiyo-e series shown in *Yoshitoshi: One Hundred Aspects of the Moon* was produced in the late 1800s and features scenes and characters that are still used in traditional Japanese tattoo today.

EVENTS

Five speakers will lend their knowledge and expertise to the program in a series of related events, to be held at The Japan Foundation, Sydney and the Art Gallery of NSW. Researchers **Leong Chan** and **David Bell** will present introductory talks on Tsukioka Yoshitoshi, delving into the designs and narratives which characterise his works. Sydney-based tattoo artist **Horisumi (Kian Forreal)** will open the *Perseverance* exhibition and perform a live tattoo demonstration at The Japan Foundation, Sydney, and will also chat with television and radio presenter Yumi Stynes at the Art Gallery of NSW about the influence ukiyo-e woodblock prints have had on his tattoo designs. Photographer **Kip Fulbeck**, one of the creators of *Perseverance*, will speak about the shared genealogy between ukiyo-e and tattoo and also about the stories behind *Perseverance* itself, including the challenges he experienced in bringing the museum and tattoo worlds together to create the exhibition. Finally, tattoo researcher **Yoshimi Yamamoto** will discuss the history of Japanese tattooing from ancient times until the 19th century, when the style we know today as Japanese tattoo solidified, and will also shed light on the cultural tensions around tattoos in Japan.

All events are presented by The Japan Foundation, Sydney except *Yoshitoshi: One Hundred Aspects of the Moon*, which is presented by the Art Gallery of NSW, and the 'Japanese Tattoo: Ukiyo-e for the Body' talk, which is co-presented by The Japan Foundation, Sydney and Art Gallery of NSW.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Uncovering Japanese Tattoo

[EXHIBITIONS]

Perseverance: Japanese Tattoo Tradition in a Modern World

September 28 – November 12

The Japan Foundation Gallery (The Japan Foundation, Sydney)

Gallery Hours

Monday – Friday and selected Saturdays from 10am.

Closing times vary. See website for details.

Admission is free.

Closed Sundays & public holidays (including Labour Day, October 3)

Yoshitoshi: One Hundred Aspects of the Moon

August 20 – November 20

Upper Asian Gallery, Art Gallery of NSW

Gallery Hours

Every day from 10:00am – 5:00pm; on Wednesdays, until 10:00pm

Admission is free.

[OPENING RECEPTION]

September 30 *Perseverance: Japanese Tattoo Tradition in a Modern World*

Featuring Horisumi (Kian Forreal), Authentink Studios

6:30pm – 8pm (doors open 6pm) @ The Japan Foundation, Sydney

[DEMONSTRATION]

October 14 *Irezumi: Tools, Techniques and Demo*

Horisumi (Kian Forreal), Authentink Studios

6:30pm – 8:00pm (doors open 6pm) @ The Japan Foundation, Sydney.

[TALKS]

September 21 *Yoshitoshi: Master of Design and Imagination*

Leong Chan (University of NSW)

6pm – 7pm (doors open 5:30pm) @ Art Gallery of NSW

September 28 *Folklore, History, Symbolism*

David Bell (University of Otago, NZ)

7pm – 8pm (doors open 6:45pm) @ Art Gallery of NSW

- October 5** **The Artistic Heritage of Japanese Tattoo and Ukiyo-e**
Kip Fulbeck (University of California, Santa Barbara, USA)
6pm – 7pm (doors open 5:30pm) @ Art Gallery of NSW
- October 6** **Gallery Talk with the Artist: Kip Fulbeck** (max. 25 people)
Kip Fulbeck (University of California, Santa Barbara, USA)
5:45pm – 6:15pm (doors open 5:15pm) @ The Japan Foundation, Sydney
- October 6** **The Making of *Perseverance***
Kip Fulbeck (University of California, Santa Barbara, USA)
6:30pm – 7:30pm (doors open 6pm) @ The Japan Foundation, Sydney
- October 12** **Japanese Tattoo: Ukiyo-e for the Body [Art After Hours]**
Horisumi (Kian Forreal), Authentink Studios
In conversation with Yumi Stynes
6:30pm – 7pm @ Art Gallery of NSW
- October 19** **How Ukiyo-e Revived Tattoo in Japan**
Yoshimi Yamamoto (Tsuru University, Japan)
6pm – 7pm (doors open 5:30pm) @ Art Gallery of NSW
- October 21** **Tattoo and Bathhouse Bans in Contemporary Japan**
Yoshimi Yamamoto (Tsuru University, Japan)
6:30pm – 7:30pm (doors open 6pm) @ The Japan Foundation, Sydney

Venues:	<p>[PERSEVERANCE EXHIBITION, DEMONSTRATION & RELATED TALKS]</p> <p>The Japan Foundation, Sydney Level 4, Central Park (access via lifts) 28 Broadway, Chippendale NSW 2008</p> <p>[YOSHITOSHI EXHIBITION & RELATED TALKS]</p> <p>Art Gallery of NSW Art Gallery Road, The Domain</p>
Admission:	Admission is free for all events. No bookings required. Note that venue capacities are limited.
Enquiries:	reception@jpf.org.au / 02 8239 0055
Website:	www.jpf.org.au

ABOUT LEONG CHAN



Leong Chan is Associate Professor of graphic design at UNSW, where he teaches visual communication and information design, and supervises research in design interventions for health and wellbeing at the Faculty of Art & Design. Leong's current research focuses on cultural identity, national experience and print culture in China, Hong Kong and Singapore, and his PhD research focused on graphic design and the visualisation of multi-racialism for nation building in Singapore. Leong's interest in ukiyo-e and the work of Yoshitoshi stems from his background in graphic design and printmaking.

ABOUT DAVID BELL



David Bell is an Associate Professor at the University of Otago, New Zealand, where he teaches Art Education. He learned Japanese woodblock print technique during his early studies in fine arts, and later explored the history and aesthetics of ukiyo-e 'floating world pictures' through postgraduate and doctoral research in art history and theory. He has subsequently taught graduate and postgraduate courses in Japanese art history, ukiyo-e, and Asian studies. Today, he also teaches visual art education. David continues to research into Japanese arts and cultural studies, publishing extensively on themes including ukiyo-e, art museums and gardens, and invention and creativity in Japanese visual worlds.

ABOUT HORISUMI (KIAN FORREAL)



Kian 'Horisumi' Forreal learned to tattoo in Toronto, Canada, and has been tattooing professionally worldwide since 1993. He was given his traditional Japanese tattoo name ('Horisumi') by tattoo master Horiyoshi III in 2013, after 20 years of tattooing. This tattoo name is an honorary title in recognition of Kian's long-term dedication to traditional Japanese tattooing, and the outstanding quality of his work in this area. Kian practices the *wabori* style of tattoo, which blends the old-world style of hand-made inks and single needles hand-soldered into specific configurations, with the speed and accuracy of machine tattooing. Kian is the only Western-born tattoo artist in Australia to have received a tattoo title from a Japanese master. His studio, Authentink, is in Surry Hills, Sydney.

ABOUT KIP FULBECK



The photographer and designer of *Perseverance*, Kip Fulbeck is the author of several books, including *Part Asian, 100% Hapa* (Chronicle Books, 2006) and *Permanence: Tattoo Portraits by Kip Fulbeck* (Chronicle Books, 2008). He has exhibited his work and performed spoken word throughout the US and abroad, including solo exhibitions at the Japanese American National Museum (Los Angeles), Invisible NYC Gallery (New York), The Field Museum (Chicago), Museum of Migration (Yokohama) and the Nikkei National Museum (Vancouver). A Professor of Art at the University of California, Santa Barbara, he is the recipient of the university's Distinguished Teaching Award, and has been featured on CNN, MTV, CBC Canada, Voice of America, National Public Radio, and *The New York Times*.

ABOUT YOSHIMI YAMAMOTO



Yoshimi Yamamoto began researching tattoos in 1990 from a cultural anthropology perspective, and was the first scholar ever to complete a PhD on tattoo at a Japanese university. Her PhD research explored contemporary tattoo history in Japan, combining interviews with Tokyo-based tattoo artists, anthropological research on the tattoo culture of Okinawa and the indigenous Taiwanese, and text-based scholarship. She later spent three years on exchange at Taiwan's national research institute, Academia Sinica, before returning to Japan in 2003 to teach at Tsuru University. As one of the few researchers of tattoo in Japan, she was involved in producing the exhibition *Tatoueurs, Tatoués* at Musée du quai Branly in Paris in 2014 and 2015. Her most recent publication, *Irezumi to Nihonjin* ("Tattoos and the Japanese"), released earlier this year, examines the changing perceptions of tattoos in Japan from the 18th century to the present.

ABOUT THE JAPAN FOUNDATION, SYDNEY

The Japan Foundation, Sydney is the Australian arm of the Japan Foundation, which was established by the Japanese government to promote cultural and intellectual exchange between Japan and other nations. It runs a diverse range of programs and events, including exhibitions, talk events, grant programs and Japanese language courses for all levels from beginner to advanced. The Japan Foundation was established in 1972 with a global network of 24 offices in 23 countries. The Australian office was founded in 1978.



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For more information please see www.jpf.org.au or contact:

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