



In Celebration of Mount Fuji Becoming a World Heritage Site

Thirty-Six New Views of Mount Fuji

西齊 Seisai (Peter MacMillan)

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Profile of Peter MacMillan (Seisai)



Peter MacMillan is a prize-winning translator, scholar, poet, and artist. He was born and grew up in a part of the Irish countryside surrounded by more horses than people. He graduated first in his class from the National University of Ireland, University College Dublin, and then went on to take an M.A. in philosophy and a Ph.D. in English literature. He spent two years as a Visiting Fellow at Princeton, Columbia, and Oxford universities. MacMillan is currently a Visiting Professor at Kyorin University and also teaches at The University of Tokyo. A citizen of both Ireland and Britain, he has lived in Japan for over twenty years and strives to be a bridge between Japan and the world. His artist name is Seisai.

In addition to creating woodblock prints, MacMillan is also a poet and translator. His translation, *One Hundred Poets, One Poem Each (Hyakunin Isshu)*, was published in 2008, winning prizes in both Japan and the United States. He recently completed an English translation of the *Tales of Ise (Ise Monogatari)*, to be published by Penguin in 2015. He has also published a collection of poetry, *Admiring Fields*.

MacMillan serves as a Councilor of the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan.

Sales/Proceeds

All of the works will be on sale during the exhibition. Please ask the concierge staff for details or contact Karen Thomas of Toriizaka Art (details below). A portion of the proceeds raised from the exhibition will be donated to the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan.

For further information

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Thirty-Six New Views of Mount Fuji

The *Thirty-Six New Views of Mount Fuji* take their starting point from Katsushika Hokusai's *Thirty-Six Views of Mount Fuji*, a series of color woodblock prints that depict Mount Fuji from thirty-six different perspectives. The Prints juxtapose an idealized historical view of Mount Fuji and Japanese culture with the actual reality of contemporary society.

By comparing the often humorous and witty disparities between the original and the recomposed images, Seisai invites viewers to examine the differences between traditional and contemporary Japanese culture. The series also celebrates Mount Fuji's recently becoming a World Heritage Site. Traveling overseas Mount Fuji makes many friends around the world.

Mount Fuji is a sacred mountain of cultural importance. It has been depicted widely in literature and art since the seventh century. We hope the *Thirty-Six New Views of Mount Fuji* will transmit the cultural importance of this sacred mountain to people both in Japan and around the world.

The prints are mixed media, combining lithography, offset printing, hand-painting, and gold leaf applied by hand. They are made by Seisai and the assistants of his studio.





Highway Fuji

Road construction was one of the pillars in creating the post-war Japanese economy, but where will all the roads end up?



Camouflage Fuji

Fuji has many associations with the military. In the past, shoguns would go there to hunt. Fuji is hidden in the camouflage.



Single Pine Fuji

After the earthquake, only a single pine remained on the beach of Rikuzen Takada and became a symbol of the hope of Japan.



Sara Fuji

The plate in the form of a mandala incorporates images of Japanese and Western cultural communication, endangered species, Japanese religious tolerance, and other elements. Sara is a triple pun, one on sara souju, the tree under which Buddha is said to have died. Sara is also the word for a plate in Japanese and this image is based on a plate; Sara is also the name of the wife of the British Ambassador, Sara Hitchens, and this image is dedicated to both the Ambassador and Sara.



Before the Great Wave

As Arctic ice melts, water levels throughout the world rise up.... "When the great wave of Hokusai strikes up to the sky, avalanches into the sea, Fuji may suddenly disappear."
—Kitahara Hakushu



Freon Fuji

This image depicts Mount Fuji and the three-day moon and, at the same time, portrays the chemical structure of freon gas.



Plastic Fuji

The universality of Mount Fuji is a theme of the series. In contemporary consumer society, what is more universal than plastic?



Hagoromo Fuji

2013 marked the 650th anniversary of the birth of Zeami, a famous Noh playwright. This image celebrates the connection of the noh play Hagoromo (A Robe of Feathers) to Mount Fuji which is set in Miho no Matsubara. Mount Fuji wears the the costume used in the Noh play, Hagoromo and depicts traditional and contemporary treasures. The phoenix which is used for the crown of the costume flies in the sky.



Crane Fuji

The crane is a symbol of longevity, thus here representing an image of sustainability. This is a work created to commemorate Fuji's taking flight around the world as a World Heritage Site.



Vuitton Fuji

Mount Vuitton represents the popularity of the famous brand in Japan.



Pearl Pachinko Fuji

This work was created in homage to the 17th-century Dutch painter Vermeer's *Girl with Pearl Necklace*.



Flag Fuji II (Cherry Blossom)

The images depicts the US-Japan friendship. Gold leaf, which is a symbol of Japanese painting, occupies half of the space in an equal partnership.



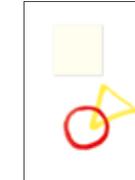
Pill-Bottle Fuji

These days, so many lose their dreams....



The Peak of Fuji

The red circle represents Fuji's peak and the surrounding lines depict contours. In this work created to commemorate Mount Fuji's registration as a World Heritage Site, I express my wish for the bright future of Japan.



Zen Fuji

This image is based on the famous Zen monk Sengai Osho's "Circle, Triangle, Square," but instead of the square the space where an image usually appears on a print is left blank. How should we look at this image, as a picture or not?



Cup Noodle Fuji

Cup noodles, the epitome of Japanese fast-food culture.



Fuji Blue

Are these clouds on a summer day, or why is Fuji blue?



Mandala Fuji

In the Edo period there was a religion called Fujiko, and many people climbed Mount Fuji. This image depicts Japanese businessmen men of today climbing the great mountain, but what are they worshipping?



Pine The pine tree appears in various dimensions. The title puns on "pine tree" and "to pine," a commonly used pun in Japanese poetry.



Apron Fuji

A comment on costume play and fantasy. The motif is borrowed from a painting by Yokoyama Taikan.



Justice Fuji

What is the place of justice in society? The image portrays the scales, in delicate Japanese colors with Icarus falling into the sea unnoticed, as the suffering of others.



Coke Fuji

Coca-Cola rises to a great height, symbol of fast food and convenience.



Tuna Fuji

A tuna becomes Mount Fuji.



Biwa Fuji

The biwa is a great symbol of traditional Japanese culture, here representing Fuji.

Celebrating Mount Fuji as a World Heritage Site



Tartan Fuji

The tartan of the MacMillan clan from Scotland.



Giraffe Fuji

Mount Fuji makes a friend in Africa. How many Fujis can you find in the image? And can you find Kilimanjaro? A giraffe called Fujiko was acquired by Hirakawa Zoo, Kagoshima, in 1952.



Princeton Fuji

Princeton's motto reads, "We flourish by the power of God," but this image reads, "We flourish beneath Mount Fuji."



Giraffe Fuji (Vortex)

The golden ratio, Fuji, life. All emerge from the vortex.



Shamrock Fuji

The shamrock is the symbol of Ireland. Saint Patrick is said to have converted the Irish to Christianity by using a shamrock to show how three gods could exist in one. The colors are the colors of the Irish flag: green, white, and orange.



Lacquer Wave Fuji

Celebrating the art of lacquer ware.



Irish Fuji

This image celebrates the bonds between Ireland and Japan. The mountain in the image looks like Fuji but is really Croagh Patrick, a sacred mountain where St. Patrick is said to have done religious practice. The cogon grass ring is used for purification in Japan, such as at the festival where Mount Fuji is opened to climb for the summer. Here it is a symbol of entering a different dimension: the dimension is the world of the magical and supernatural that exists in the everyday in Ireland and Japan. Both countries share the same folk tales such as Tír na nÓg and Urashimataro. In both tales a young man goes to the land of eternal youth for 300 years and when he returns ages suddenly. In the Japanese tale he travels on a turtle and the turtle in this image is from that tale. He travels between Ireland and Japan sharing myths and magical things of everyday life. The six-sided shapes here are from the turtle. They often appear in shrine decorations and are a symbol of good fortune in Japan. Ireland is famous for the six-sided rock of Giants Causeway, a World Heritage Site, which consists of about 40,000 interlocking basalt columns, the result of an ancient volcanic eruption.

The shamrock is a symbol of Ireland. The colors of the image are inspired by the Irish tricolor, green, white and orange. The Celtic Triskelion is from the astronomical calendar at the famous megalithic tomb of Newgrange in Ireland, built around 3200 BC. A version of the same symbol (*mitsudome*), a visual representation of a vortex, has been widely used in Japan since ancient times.