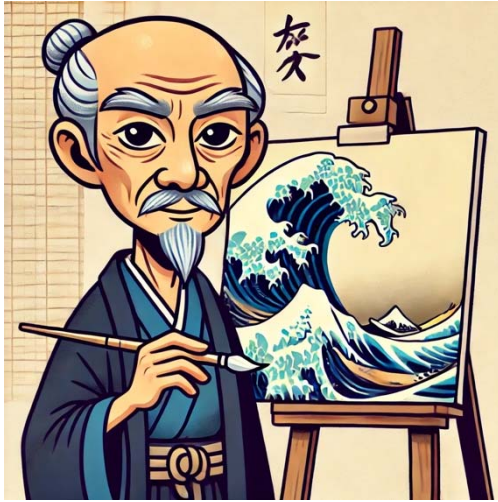


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Katsushika Hokusai: The Artist Who Painted Waves



Katsushika Hokusai was a famous Japanese artist best known for his woodblock prints. His most famous work, The Great Wave off Kanagawa, is one of the most recognized pieces of art in the world. Hokusai's art captured the beauty of nature, Japanese culture, and everyday life.

Hokusai was born in 1760 in Edo, Japan (now Tokyo). He loved to draw from a young age. At 14, he became an apprentice to a woodcarver, and by 18, he was studying under famous artists. However, Hokusai did not want to follow traditional styles. Instead, he experimented with new techniques and focused on nature, landscapes, and common people.

One of his greatest achievements was the series Thirty-Six Views of Mount Fuji, created in the 1830s. This collection included The Great Wave off Kanagawa, which shows a giant wave towering over boats, with Mount Fuji in the background. The painting's dramatic movement and beautiful colors made it world-famous. Today, it is often seen in books, museums, and even on clothing. Even though Hokusai was successful, his life was not easy. He changed his name multiple times, moved to different homes, and faced financial struggles. He also worked very hard—sometimes creating thousands of drawings in his lifetime! Even as he grew older, he continued to paint, believing that with each year, he became a better artist.

Hokusai passed away in 1849, but his art continues to inspire people all over the world. His prints showed the beauty of Japan's landscapes and helped introduce Japanese art to other countries. Today, he is remembered as one of Japan's greatest artists.