Two ukiyo-e prints; “The Great Wave at Kanagawa”, by Hokusai (above) and “A Man and a Woman,” by Utamaro (right)

Literally translated, ukiyo-e means “pictures of the floating world.” This refers to woodblock prints from 18th and 19th century Japan that depict both scenic images of imaginative beauty and images of theater and the underworld in Edo (Tokyo). These images were painstakingly carved using one block of wood for each color. We refer to this process today as “relief printing.”

During this workshop participants will learn about the history of this art form and see famous examples. They will then proceed to produce a one or two color simple relief print designed to give a greater understanding of the techniques involved in the process.