



Smithsonian
*Freer Gallery of Art and
Arthur M. Sackler Gallery*

Diane Vogt O'Connor Photograph Collection

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives
Title:	Diane Vogt O'Connor Photograph Collection
Date:	circa 1878-1879
Identifier:	FSA.A1991.03
Creator:	Vogt-O'Connor, Diane (Collector) Vogt-O'Connor, Diane (Donor) Stillfried, Raimund, Baron von, 1839-1911 Kusakabe, Kimbei, 1841-1934
Extent:	3 Albumen prints (color; 8.5 x 10.5 in.)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Image(s): Diane Vogt O'Connor Photograph Collection Image(s): Diane Vogt O'Connor Photograph Collection Image(s): Diane Vogt O'Connor Photograph Collection

Administrative Information

Provenance

Donated by Diane Vogt O'Conner, 1991 ; Originally purchased from Laurence D. Brill, New York, 1987.

Citation

Diane Vogt O'Connor Photograph Collection. FSA.A1991.03. National Museum of Asian Art Archives. Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository.

Biographical / Historical

Diane Vogt O'Connor is an archivist. She received her master's in library and information science in 1980 from Wayne State University. She began her long career at the Corning Glass Works as the Archives Director between 1976-1980. O'Conner then became the Library Director at the Cranbrook Academy of Art between 1980-1983. O'Connor joined the Smithsonian Institution Archives in 1983 as an archivist and became a supervisory archivist in 1986. In 1993, she joined the National Park Service as a senior archivist. In 2000, she joined the National Archives and Records Administration as the senior archivist for Regional and Affiliated Archives. Between 2006-2013, O'Connor was the Chief of Conservation for the Library of Congress. Currently, O'Connor works as an archival

consultant for both private and public institutions. She has published a number of books and guides related to collections, archives, and museology.

Baron Raimund von Stillfried (1839-1911) was an Austrian military officer and photographer of late Tokugawa era Japan. Stillfried became one of the leading photographers in Japan in the 1870s and was known for his portraiture and genre scene photographs. Stillfried was part of the Austro-Hungarian army between 1859-1863. Upon completion, Stillfried began a tour of the world which ended in Japan in 1864. In 1871, Stillfried opened his own photographic studio, Stillfried and Co., in Yokohama, becoming a successful commercial photographer. In 1875, Stillfried formed a partnership with Hermann Anderson and renamed the studio to Stillfried and Anderson, also known as the Japan Photographic Association. In addition to his photography, Stillfried trained many Japanese photographers, including Kusakabe Kimbei. In 1876, he sold his stock to Kusakabe and left Japan in 1881. He settled in Vienna in 1883, continuing to work as a photographer. Stillfried died in Vienna in 1911.

Kusakabe Kimbei (1841-1934) was a Japanese photographer, noted for his portrayal of female subjects in *bijin-ga* (beautiful women) style commonly seen in *ukiyo-e* prints. He began his career in photography as an assistant to Felice Beato at the age of fifteen or sixteen. He later worked under Baron Raimund von Stillfried as a photographic colorist and assistant in the 1870s. Kusakabe purchased Stillfried's stock in 1876 and opened his own studio in 1881 in Yokohama. In addition to his photography, Kusakabe became a dealer of photographs by other photographers. As Yokohama was a major port city, his photographs were a popular souvenir for foreign customers who were interested in the traditional styles of Japan as the country began its rapid modernization in the Meiji era. Kusakabe closed his studio in 1913 and retired in 1914.

Scope and Contents

Three handcolored albumen prints, one of Kamata Yashiki Garden in Tokyo; and two depicting Japanese women: one attributed to Baron Raimund Von Stillfried of Austria (1839-1911), circa 1879, depicting Japanese women in an architectural setting, and the other attributed to Kusakabe Kimbei (active 1880's), circa 1878, showing two seated Japanese women playing go in an architectural interior.

Scope and Contents

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Arrangement

1.5 linear feet

Local Numbers

FSA A1991.03

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Types of Materials:

Albumen prints

Places:

Japan -- Description and Travel

USA -- District of Columbia -- Washington

Container Listing

Geisha Playing at Go, 1878
[Image\(s\): Diane Vogt O'Connor Photograph Collection](#)
Creator: Kusakabe, Kimbei, 1841-1934
Topic: Photography -- Japan
Genre/Form: Albumen prints

Plum Garden Kamadaume Yashiki Blonged to Mr Yamamoto Oomori
[Image\(s\): Diane Vogt O'Connor Photograph Collection](#)
Topic: Photography -- Japan
Genre/Form: Albumen prints

Untitled [two women], 1879
[Image\(s\): Diane Vogt O'Connor Photograph Collection](#)
Creator: Stillfried, Raimund, Baron von, 1839-1911
Notes: .
Topic: Photography -- Japan
Genre/Form: Albumen prints