

YTHS January 2016 Meeting

It's a Saturday morning at the Asian Museum in San Francisco. Six members of YTHS (Mimi Ahern, Patrick Gallagher, Linda Papanicolaou, David Sherertz, Clysta Seney, and Alison Woolpert) gather for a docent-led tour of "Looking East—How Japan Inspired Monet, Van Gogh, and other Western Artists" (http://www.asianart.org/exhibitions_index/looking-east.)

Following the tour, members individually revisit the exhibit, and then gather for a sharing of museum-inspired haiku.

Sitting close together over tea at a table in the museum café, they experience the sharp absence of their beloved Dojin Patricia Machmiller, who two days before, while walking in a crosswalk near her home, was hit by a car. In the hospital and now healing, they sign a card for Patricia. Alison includes her haibun below.

“Looking East” Show, San Francisco Art Museum”

As we stand in front of the block print the docent tells us that the eagle is a symbol of power and perseverance—and the strength of a samurai warrior.

*the "Eagle
on a Pine Branch in the Rain" painting
-winter accident*



**Eagle on a pine branch in the rain,
1770–1779**

By Isoda Koryusai (Japanese, 1735–1790)
Woodblock print; ink and color on paper

The artist Koryusai was known not only for his many designs showing beautifully dressed courtesans parading through the pleasure quarter, but also for his depictions of birds and animals. Unlike most ukiyo-e artists, he was born into the samurai class and was originally trained in the Kano school, the official painters to the shogun. This printed depiction of a proud eagle that stands firmly on a pine branch even during a driving rain is a less expensive version of a motif that was often painted as a symbol of power and perseverance on the hanging scrolls and folding screens favored by the warrior aristocracy.

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, William Sturgis Bigelow Collection, II.1952B