

ALAN WOFSY FINE ARTS



YASUO KUNIYOSHI, The Complete Graphic Work.

Richard A. Davis. 288 pages. 144 illustrations. San Francisco: Alan Wofsy Fine Arts, 1991. ISBN 1-55660-089-5

Yasuo Kuniyoshi was born in Okayama, Japan in 1889 and died in New York City in 1953. He arrived in Seattle in 1906 as an adventurous sixteen-year-old. After a series of odd jobs on the West Coast, the future artist spent three years at the Los Angeles School of Art and Design. By 1910 he had moved to New York City, first studying at the National Academy and then at the Independent School. Kuniyoshi finally settled at the Art Students League, under the guidance of Kenneth Hayes Miller. A short while later he was exhibiting at the Penguin Club with Kuhn, Weber and Pascin.

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He had his first one-man show in 1922 at the Daniel Gallery. By the mid-twenties the artist was becoming popular and was able to take trips to France in 1925 and 1928, spending time with Pascin. In 1931 he returned to Japan to visit his father and the Osaka Mai Nichi newspaper arranged one-man exhibitions in Tokyo and Osaka. In 1935, a Guggenheim Fellowship allowed him to visit Mexico. Thereafter he spent summers in Woodstock while teaching at the Art Students League and New School for Social Research. Kuniyoshi was the first living American artist to be honored with a retrospective show at the Whitney Museum.

This catalogue raisonné illustrates and describes all of Kuniyoshi's etchings, lithographs and woodcuts. It is an expanded version of the Checklist that was published in the Journal of the Archives of American Art in July, 1965. Most of the works are reproduced full-size in the present edition. This catalogue will be an essential reference for the many collectors and students of this major Japanese-American artist.