



Untitled [First Encounter of Kintar's Parents]

Date

c. 1830

Primary Maker

Teisai Hokuba

Medium

Ink and mineral pigments on silk

Description

This painting was made during the Edo period (1615–1868), possibly by the artist Teisai Hokuba, a painter, printmaker, and pupil of the famous artist Katsushika Hokusai (1760–1849). During the most productive phase of his career, between 1800 and 1812, Hokuba created illustrations for more than sixty anthologies of

kyka poetry and vernacular novels. The scene depicted in this work, made toward the end of the artist's life, is drawn from *The Adventures of Kintar, the Golden Boy*, a tale that originated in the eleventh century. Known for his immense strength, Kintar was a folk hero who fought for the rights of the common people. Here, his future parents, an aristocratic woman and a humble guard named Kintoki, meet for the first time at the imperial palace in Kyoto. Hokuba made their instantaneous attraction evident with a burst of gold, although their story would end tragically with the suicide of Kintar's father, which prompted his mother to live as a recluse for the remainder of her life. The illustration was likely part of a large album commissioned by an important or wealthy client, as the use of expensive materials such as silk and mineral pigments was not widespread at the time. (SOURCE: Alcauskas, *INNOVATIVE APPROACHES, HONORED TRADITIONS*, 2017) Format: album leaf. backed with paper.

Dimensions

Sheet: 10 1/16 × 11 1/8 in. (25.6 × 28.3 cm)