

An Amazing Creation

The Great Wave off Kanagawa, also known as The Great Wave or simply The Wave, is a woodblock print by the Japanese ukiyo-e artist Hokusai. It was published sometime between 1829 and 1833 in the late Edo period as the first print in Hokusai's series Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji. The image depicts an enormous wave threatening three boats off the coast in the Sagami Bay (Kanagawa Prefecture) while Mount Fuji rises in the background. Sometimes assumed to be a tsunami, the wave is more likely to be a large rogue wave.

Hokusai began painting when he was six years old. At age twelve, his father sent him to work at a bookseller's. At sixteen, he was apprenticed as an engraver and spent three years learning the trade. At the same time he began to produce his own illustrations. At eighteen he was accepted as an apprentice to Katsukawa Shinshu, one of the foremost ukiyo-e artists of the time. In 1804 he became famous as an artist when, during a festival in Edo (later named Tokyo), he completed a 240m² painting of a Buddhist monk named Drama. In 1814, he published the first of fifteen volumes of sketches entitled Manga.

