

Art in the Garden

Ray Morimura: Prints for All Seasons

Summer 2014



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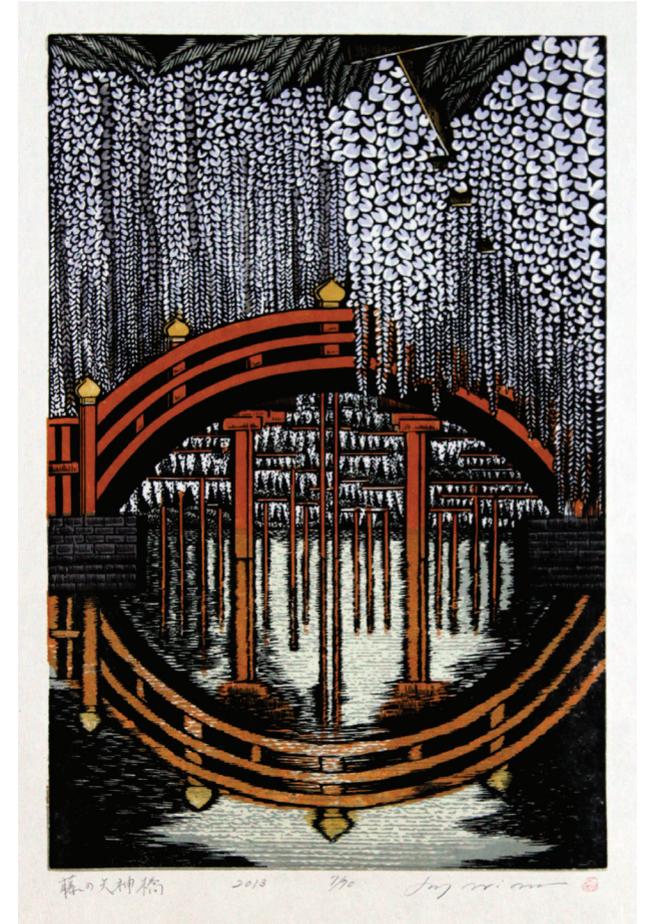
In keeping with the theme “A Year of Renewal,” the 2014 Spring Art in the Garden exhibition introduced the work of Tokyo print artist Rei (Ray) Morimura, whose evocative landscapes combine tradition with modernity.

Ray Morimura graduated from Tokyo Gakugei University, where he studied modern painting, as did many of his generation. In the 1970s, he became interested in becoming part of an innovative group of young illustrators who produced a series of beautifully illustrated books called *Kodomo no Kuni* (Country of Children). This interest led him to explore printmaking as a medium for his work as a graphic designer.

In an interview in *Daruma* magazine, Morimura says, “In art college I tried all methods as part of my class assignments. Originally, woodblock printmaking was for practical purposes; it doesn’t require major equipment so I could work from home. I am not a purist: I have created a unique technique based on woodblock-carving on plastic tiles (linocut) rather than wood, and I use oil-based ink. I am very traditional in my use of paper-only handmade *washi* will do. I make sketches of places that appeal to me but it sometimes takes years for me to make an actual print. The idea percolates, and sometimes I end up making several designs based on different perspectives of one same image.”

His work is known throughout the world thanks to the efforts of the Tolman Collection of Tokyo who have represented him at exhibitions in Japan, China, Singapore, and the United States.

Morimura produced a special limited-edition series of prints of the Portland Japanese Garden in the four seasons. The first print in the series (Spring) was unveiled at this exhibition, with the other three in the series to follow later in the year.



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📷 All event photos by Jonathan Ley; Art images courtesy of the Tolman Collection.

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