

# TOSA MITSUOKI

1617-1691



# BIOGRAPHY

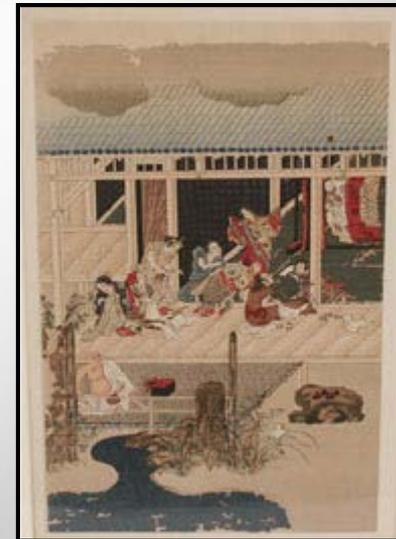
- ❖ Born in 1617 in Japan during the Tokugawa period
- ❖ Father was a famous painter
- ❖ Age 38: appointed “Chief Painter” of one of the imperial courts



# YAMATO-E STYLE

- ❖ Yamato-e (大和絵) style is the classic style of Japanese painting.
- ❖ Tells narrative stories, sometimes with text.
- ❖ Focuses on nature's beauty, famous places, and the seasons
- ❖ Art was made into scrolls that could be hung on a wall (kakemono) or handscrolls (emakimono) that could be read from right to left with.
- ❖ Simple, elegant, pure lines, soft and cool colors.

# PAINTINGS



# FOLDING SCREENS

- ❖ Art was also made into folding screens.
- ❖ Screens had up to six panels that were hinged together.
- ❖ Used as furniture, to divide a room into smaller spaces



**FLOWERING CHERRY  
WITH POEM SLIPS**



AUTUMN MAPLE  
WITH POEM SLIPS



# WEDDING PRESENT

- ❖ Cherry Blossom and Autumn Maple screens were a gift for an important couple.
- ❖ Bride was the daughter of a Shogun, a strong military ruler; groom was a young emperor.
- ❖ Bride loved the gift and sat in front of it while entertaining guests.
- ❖ Screen was expensive and impressive (ink/paint mixed with gold, silver, quartz, etc.) and signified the couple's importance and wealth.

# SPRING GARDEN PARTIES

- ❖ Japanese garden parties-occur when blossoms are in full bloom.
- ❖ Guests write poems, read them, & attach poems to tree branches.
- ❖ Mitsuoki screen: painted poems were replicas of real ones members of the royal court wrote.
- ❖ People still have these parties today.



# HAIKU

❖ Form of Japanese poetry, traditionally seventeen syllables long divided into three lines:

Five syllables  
Seven syllables  
Five syllables

*Swirling Wind and Rain.*

*Lilacs Have Come, Spring Has Sprung.*

*Pink, Purple, and White.*



## OUR OWN SPRING POETRY GARDEN PARTY

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- ❖ Write a haiku poem about spring on long, narrow white paper.
- ❖ Attach poem with string provided to tree.