

JOAN B MIRVISS LTD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Marilyn White
973 783-3649
MWhitePR@aol.com

A TRIO OF EXHIBITIONS FEATURE JAPANESE WOODBLOCK PRINTS

DARING VISIONS – PRINTS OF THE UTAGAWA SCHOOL
ON VIEW MARCH 3 – MAY 2, 2008 AT JOAN B MIRVISS LTD,
39 EAST 78th STREET IN NEW YORK

MIRVISS EXHIBITION COINCIDES WITH SHOWS AT BROOKLYN
MUSEUM AND ASIA SOCIETY

NEW YORK: Coinciding with two major museum shows in New York, JOAN B MIRVISS LTD presents *Daring Visions – Prints of the Utagawa School*, an exhibition of masterworks of woodblock prints on view from March 3 through May 2, 2008, at 39 East 78th Street. Many of Japan's most celebrated artists worked under the Utagawa name, and *Daring Visions* will present a wide range of prints and paintings that demonstrate the variety and dynamism that established the Utagawa school as a dominant creative force in the nineteenth century.



This exhibition runs concurrently with *Designed for Pleasure: The World of Edo Japan in Prints and Paintings, 1680 – 1860* at the Asia Society and *Utagawa: Masters of the Japanese Print, 1770-1900* at the Brooklyn Museum, which was curated by Joan B Mirviss LTD gallery director, Laura J. Mueller. “The Brooklyn Museum exhibition will present a groundbreaking look at the development of the Utagawa school through exceptional examples from the famous Van Vleck Collection of Japanese Prints, whose core works came from the private collection of Frank Lloyd Wright,” said Mueller. “*Daring Visions* will complement this important

exhibition with rare and fine quality prints in superb condition by many of the same pioneering artists.”

JAPANESE ART *By Appointment*

39 East 78th Street, 4th floor | New York NY 10075

Telephone 212 799 4021 | Facsimile 212 721 5148

joan@mirviss.com | www.mirviss.com

JOAN B MIRVISS LTD

The prolific Utagawa school was responsible for over half of all extant woodblock prints in the category of *ukiyo-e*, or 'pictures of the floating world,' and they left behind some of the most widely recognizable images in the field, including portraits of beautiful women by **Utagawa Toyokuni** (1769-1825), landscapes by **Utagawa Hiroshige** (1797-1858), warrior prints by **Utagawa Kuniyoshi** (1798-1861), and kabuki actor portraits by **Utagawa Kunisada** (1786-1864). Their compositions set the standards in the genre by incorporating innovative treatments of their subject matter and by utilizing deluxe printing techniques that showcased the amazing skill with which the Japanese approached the medium. Highlights of the exhibition include a striking field of iris by **Utagawa Hiroshige** from his celebrated series *One-hundred Views of Edo*, as well as a dramatic triptych printed with sparkling mica dust by **Utagawa Kuniyoshi** depicting a Japanese warrior hunting a giant boar.



Daring Visions will also show a small selection of exceptionally fine paintings by members of the school, including a hanging scroll by **Utagawa Toyokuni** of a courtesan robed in an exquisite black and metallic gold kimono with a spider web pattern. Another rare work is a fan painting by **Utagawa Kunimaru** (1794-1829) of the famed kabuki actor Ichikawa Danjuro VII (1791-1859) in one of his most popular stage roles. The exhibition *Daring Visions – Prints of the Utagawa School* will include an exceptional selection of prints and paintings that range in price from \$650 to \$32,000.

JOAN B MIRVISS LTD is located at 39 East 78th Street, in New York and will be open Tuesday through Friday, 2 PM to 5 PM, and Saturday, 1 PM to 4 PM, or by appointment. For more information or to request high-resolution images, phone 212-799-4021 or email laura@mirviss.com.

JAPANESE ART By Appointment

39 East 78th Street, 4th floor | New York NY 10075

Telephone 212 799 4021 | Facsimile 212 721 5148

joan@mirviss.com | www.mirviss.com