

# Japanese art at the 17th Biennale of Sydney

The 17th Biennale of Sydney will be held from 12 May until 1 August 2010. Japanese artists are among the international and Australian artists whose recent works will be showcased during the free event.

The theme of this biennale is *The Beauty of Distance: Songs of Survival in a Precarious Age*. The venues of the 17th Biennale will be located around Sydney Harbour—the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney Opera House, Royal Botanic Gardens, Artspace and the Art Gallery of New South Wales—and on Cockatoo Island which will be linked by a free ferry service.

On Cockatoo Island, Japanese artist Hiroshi Sugimoto will create a special installation for the Power House from his recent *Lightning Field* series. The work pictured right might bring to mind Japanese ink brush paintings but it is created by recording high voltage electrical discharge on a sheet of photographic film placed on a metal table.

Artspace in Woolloomooloo will be home to SuperDeluxe and will become an art gallery, performance space, bar and club, featuring a line-up of Japanese performers and collaborations with local artists. One of the SuperDeluxe@Artspace events will be PechaKucha nights where artists and other creatives will talk about any topic using 20 slides limited to 20 seconds 'chat' on each slide. PechaKucha is Japanese for 'chit-chat'.

To learn more about these and the other Japanese participants see

[www.bos17.com](http://www.bos17.com)



Hiroshi Sugimoto *Lightning Fields Illuminated 003, 2008*  
Courtesy the artist and Koyanagi Gallery, Tokyo

## Ukiyo-e by Utamaro in Sydney

Currently showing at the Art Gallery of New South Wales are *ukiyo-e* by Utamaro (c1753-1806) drawn from the collection of the Asian Art Museum, National Museums Berlin. The woodblock prints are well preserved allowing you to see details that are sometimes hard to see on other copies. The wings of cicadas and dragonflies shimmer beautifully in the copy of *Book of Insects*. Some 80 works by Utamaro and his followers are on display.

A video presentation in the gallery shows the process behind and the level of technical skill required to create *ukiyo-e*.

For further details of the exhibition and related events see the AGNSW website.

Hymn to beauty: the art of Utamaro  
Until 2 May 2010

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney  
Adult \$8; Member/concession \$5; Family \$20

[www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au](http://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au)

'The white surcoat' from the series *New patterns of brocade woven in the Utamaro style* c1796-98, Asian Art Museum, National Museums of Berlin  
Photography: Jürgen Liepe

