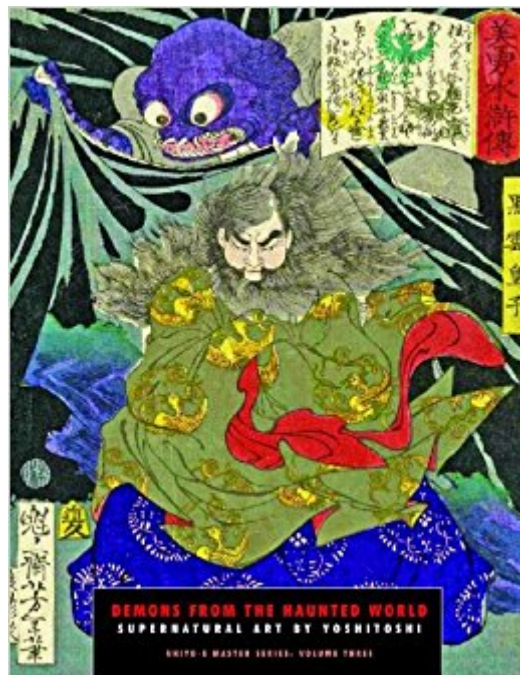




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# Demons From The Haunted World: Supernatural Art By Yoshitoshi (Ukiyo-e Master Series)



## Synopsis

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi, a student of ukiyo-e master Utagawa Kuniyoshi, showed a predilection towards two types of subject in his early work: exceptionally bloody musha-e (warrior prints), and supernatural images of demons and ghosts. Yoshitoshi maintained an interest in depicting the haunted realm of Japanese myth right up until his last major series, 36 Ghosts, in 1889 (two years before his death). Like all of his art, these prints are now considered to be the work of ukiyo-e's last master practitioner. DEMONS FROM THE HAUNTED WORLD, edited by Jack Hunter (who also edited the ground-breaking extreme ukiyo-e anthology "Dream Spectres"), collects and considers over 150 of Yoshitoshi's most striking and disturbing images of spectres, monsters and demons – including the series 100 Ghost Stories, Heroic Beauty, and 36 Ghosts in their entirety – presented in large-format and full-colour throughout. Third in a dynamic new series presenting the cutting edge of 19th century Japanese art.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi (1839-1892) was a leading Japanese artist. He is widely recognized as the last great master of Ukiyo-e, a type of Japanese woodblock printing. He is additionally regarded as one of the form's greatest innovators. His career spanned two eras – the last years of feudal Japan, and the first years of modern Japan following the Meiji Restoration. Jack Hunter is author and

editor of over 20 books on cinema, including *EROS*, *IN*, *HELL* and *MOONCHILD*, as well as the popular book on Japanese art, *DREAM*, *SPECTRES*, and the counter-culture classic *FREAK*, *BABYLON*.

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*DEMONS FROM THE HAUNTED WORLD* collects and considers over 150 of Yoshitoshi's most striking and disturbing images of spectres, monsters and demons including four series in their entirety as presented in large-format and full-colour throughout. It features both stand-alone works from various stages of Kuniyoshi's career, and works taken from various series. The three series that are reproduced in full are: *100 Ghost Stories From China And Japan* (*Wakan hyaku monogatari*, 1865); Yoshitoshi only completed 26 of the projected 100 designs, which were published in oban (roughly 23 x 12 inches) format by Daikin. Authors of the accompanying text included Kanagaki Robun, Sumida Ryoko, Kikuyotei Roko, and Sankanjin Korai. *Heroic Beauty From The Suikoden* (*Biyu suikoden*, 1866-7); 50 designs, published in vertical chuban (roughly 10 x 7 inches) format, by Kinkyu. *New Forms Of 36 Ghosts* (*Shinkei sanjurokkaisen*, 1889-1892); 36 designs, published in oban format by Sasaki Toyokichi. Revisiting some of the Japanese myths and legends he had addressed in previous series, Yoshitoshi delivered a far more restrained and atmospheric set of designs, with less emphasis on the aspect of monsters or spectres. Other sets represented here include *A Modern Journey To The West* (*Tsuzoku saiyuki*, 1864-65); *Valour In China And Japan* (*Wakan goki zoro*, 1868); *Essays By Yoshitoshi* (*Ikkai zuihitsu*, 1872); *Mirror Of Famous Generals Of Great Japan* (*Dai nippon meisho kagami*, 1879); *Crazy Pictures Of Tokyo* (*Tokyo kaika kyoga meisho*, 1881); *A New Selection Of Strange Events* (*Shinyo rokkaisen*, 1882); and *Sketches By Yoshitoshi* (*Yoshitoshi manga*, 1885-86). Taken together, the 150 images in *DEMONS FROM THE HAUNTED WORLD* comprise a stunning introduction to the art and imagination of a visionary 19th century master.

This is exactly what I was looking for. I picked it up to use for tattoo references. Huge pages in full

color.

Beautifully illustrated book!

*Demons from the Haunted World: Supernatural Art* by Yoshitoshi is part of an ongoing series of ukiyo-e art print books, compiled and edited by Jack Hunter. Ukiyo-e is an art style that flourished during the Edo Period, from the 17th to 19th centuries, in Japan. It's rough translation is "pictures from the floating world", and most often depicts romanticized versions of samurai, kabuki (male theatre) actors, gorgeous women, and even erotica. This particular set of collections zeroes in on the violence and horror avenues of ukiyo-e, gathering paintings and prints from the eras most well-known artists. *Demons from the Haunted World* showcases art by ukiyo-e master, Yoshitoshi, who lived from 1839 to 1892. Yoshitoshi was a prolific painter, and is considered one of the last masters of this art form. He lived through the beginnings of the Meiji era, and in a time where Japan was rapidly adopting Western technology (like photography) he fought to keep old traditions alive. Unfortunately, his struggle was futile, and the art is said to have effectively died with him in 1892. He became well-known for a set of prints called "The Bloody Prints" (not included in this collection). The series depicted horrible and ultra-violent scenes of mayhem and death (just check Wikipedia). Later, he would go on to paint many more series. This book focuses purely on his demon and ghost paintings, from several different collections, including "100 Ghosts from China and Japan", "Heroic Beauty from the Suikoden", "New Forms of 36 Ghosts", and a smattering of other collections. The art itself is gorgeous: terribly detailed, imaginative, and indicative of the period. For those that aren't familiar with demon renditions in Japan, most do take human form, so I wasn't overly surprised by the great number of portraits which depict mostly human subjects. However, the actual prints (in this case, the photography used in the book) is quite muddy, and in many cases "bleeds out" the color. These publisher defects, when printed on ultra-glossy paper, detracts from the overall quality of the book, which has nothing more than an introduction and catalog for words. I enjoyed the concept of the layout, with large, full-page, color illustrations, but the quality of the reproductions was poor, often given the images the appearance of a low-quality camera image that had been blown up to grainy quality. There were also some images in the back that I would have really loved to see much larger, but overall, *Demons from the Haunted World* showcases an incredible and diverse collection of prints, and I am pleased to have it on my shelf for reference. If you'd like to see images of the book to better understand my meaning, you can visit my blog here: [...]

Looks more like a graphic novel than a ukiyo-e book.

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