

On ice

One subject, two ways. How do artists explore similar themes through different styles? Here, two works in the Art Gallery's collection present snowy scenes of winter.



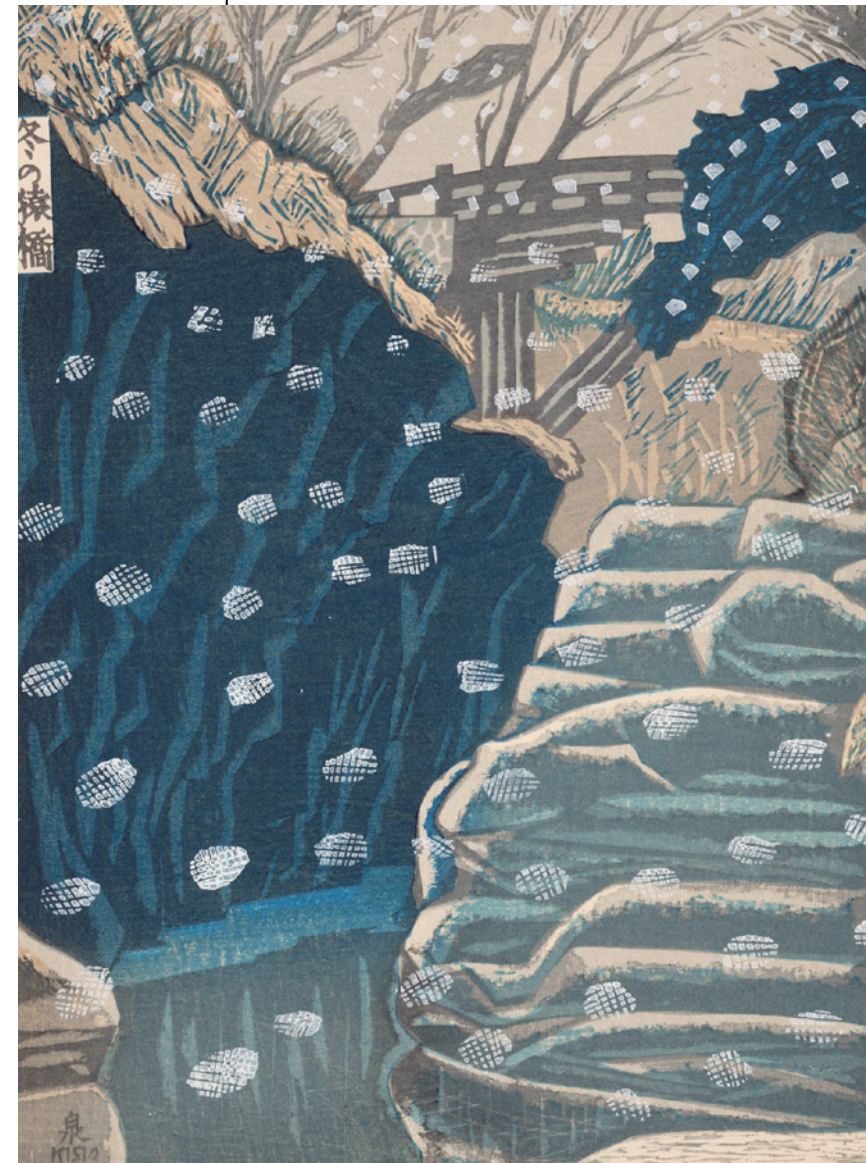
Henri Doucet
Ice skaters c1894

The prick of frosty air on skin, the shush of blades on ice – Doucet has distilled a highly evocative slice of French life in the late-19th century. Shades of blue, grey and mauve intermingle with white to conjure a freezing atmosphere, while a diffused sun dances through in

pastel glimmers. Against the hardness of the ice, the thick fabric and furs of the skaters speak to the elaborate fashions of the time. Through Doucet's soft, impressionistic rendering, we feel the movement, conversation and liveliness of his subjects, stilled in an unrestrained moment.

Henri Doucet *Ice skaters* c1894, oil on canvas, 60.2 x 92.2 cm, Art Gallery of New South Wales

Koizumi Kishio *The Monkey Bridge in winter* from the series *New one hundred views of Japan* 1939–41, woodblock print, 30 x 22.7 cm, Art Gallery of New South Wales



Koizumi Kishio
The Monkey Bridge in winter 1939–41

A flurry of snow falls upon the banks and into the Katsura River below. In the background, Saruhashi, the cantilevered 'Monkey Bridge' stands on stilts. Koizumi, a member of the Japanese modern art Creative Print movement, presents a serene scene rendered in woodblock with a reduced palette of icy shades. Through angular, repetitive shapes, the artist evokes frozen plateaus and snow mounds, brittle tree branches and sparkling reflections. In contrast, softly receding rounds of snow create an irregular rhythm.

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Emma McLean, *Look* deputy editor