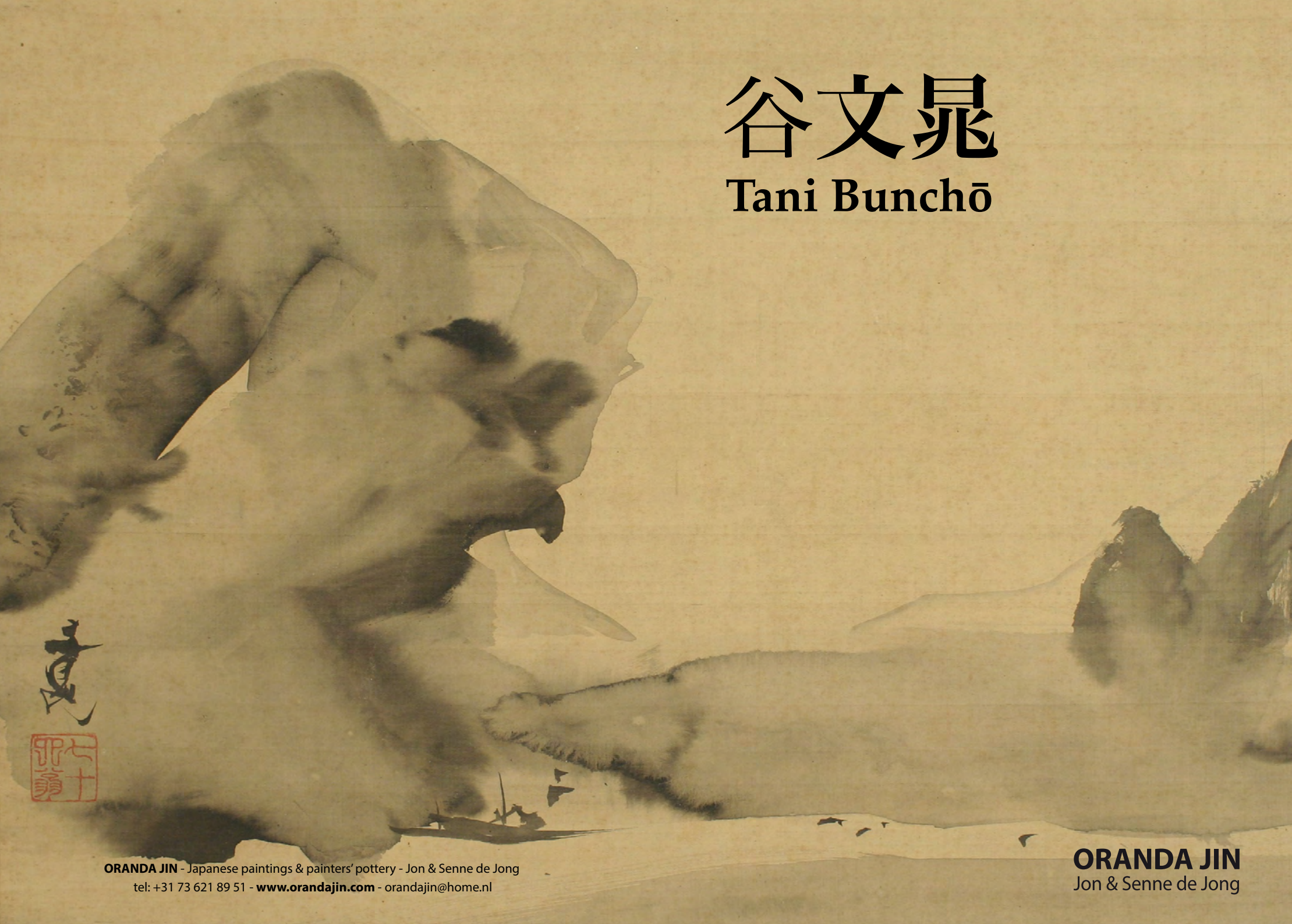

谷文晁
Tani Bunchō

ORANDA JIN - Japanese paintings & painters' pottery - Jon & Senne de Jong
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ORANDA JIN
Jon & Senne de Jong

Tani Bunchō (1763-1840)

About Bunchō …

Bunchō was the eldest son of Tani Rokkoku (1729-1809), a retainer of the Tayasu daimyō family and a well-known poet. From the age of ten Bunchō took painting lessons with the Kanō painter Katō Bunrei (1706-82). After about ten years of Kanō training, around the year of Bunrei's death he started to experiment in a wide range of other styles. He was taught the decorative Chinese painting style of Shen Nan P'in (1682-1760 only active in Japan from 1731-1733) by Watanabe Gentai (1749-1820) The Yuan and Ming styles as well as the European styles he learned from Kitayama Kangan (1767-1801), the Sesshū style from Sakurai Sekkan (1715-90) (Sesshū XII) and Maruyama-Shijō painting from Watanabe Nangaku (1767-1813). From Go Shun, whom he met a couple of times travelling the Kansai region, he picked up the Buson style.

In 1792 Bunchō was appointed personal attendant to Matsudaira Sadanobu (1758-1829), the head of the Tokugawa government, and accompanied him on his travels from 1787 to 1793. In 1794 Bunchō organized probably the first exhibition of contemporary painting in Edo, just like Minegawa Kien (1734-1807) had organized his *Shin Shoga Tenkan* (exhibition with friends and colleagues) in Kyoto. In 1812 Sadanobu retired. After his employer's death in 1829 Bunchō took the tonsure and was appointed *on'eshi* (distinguished painting master) by the Matsudaira family and he was generously awarded a yearly stipend of 150 *koku.*
Meanwhile he was hardly able to satisfy the demand for his paintings and dozens of aspiring students begging for education. By his sixties gifts and students made is annual increase to an estimated one thousand *ryō* of gold, or ten thousand *koku*, which made life became gregarious and filled with friends in getting drunk at gatherings.
In 1837 he received in Kyoto the honorary rank of *hōgen* and continued to paint until his death.

Jon & Senne de Jong, June 2026

ORANDA JIN
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Flaming pearl, *Hōjū*
玉図
c. 1816
Sg: *Bunchō* - 文晁
Sl: *Chōō* - 蝶翁
Sumi on satin damask, 42.1 x 37.4

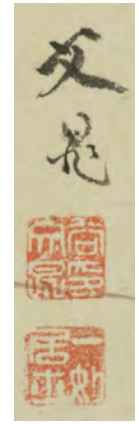
Symbol, wish for a prosperous New Year

With Kan Kōnan (Kokumei) (1768-1835) 關 潢南（克明）
Butterflies, *Chō*
蝶図
文晁老人荘周夢現図
Old man Bunchō's trance of fluttering lace around the house
c. 1824
Sg: *Bunchō hitsu & Shō Kokumei* - 文晁筆、笑克明
Sl: *Gagakusai & .. yūgogaku Kiga ichioka, Kan Kōkumei ….*
- 画學斎、口游五岳歸臥一丘、関克明口徳口、口
Colours on paper, 37.7 x 52.8

粉清煙翅 / 薄香冷露 / 須拳

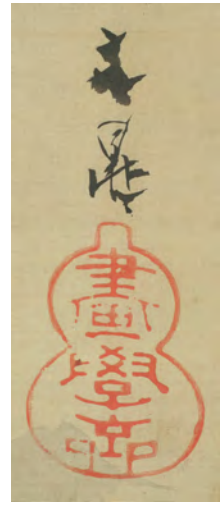
Kōnakiyō kemuri hane
Usuragu kaori hiyeru tsuyu
Subekaraku kobushi

A cloud of pollen like bright smoke blown up by insect wings,
over pale colours and the fragrance from cool morning dew
It's like a fist so strong



Kingfisher in a lotus pond, *Kawasemi, no hasuike*
翡翠の蓮池図
c. 1796
Sg: *Bunchō* - 文晁
Sl: *Tani Bunchō in, Inyo koji* - 谷文晁印、一如居士
Colours on paper, 23 x 17

Waterfall, *Taki*
瀑布図
c. 1829
Sg: *Bunchō* - 文晁
Sl: *Bunchō gain* - 文晁画印
Sumi on grey washed silk, 92.5 x 34



Waterfall, *Bakufu*
瀑布図
c. 1827
Sg: *Bunchō* - 文晁
Sl: *Gagakusai* - 画學斎
Sumi on silk, 92 x 34.3

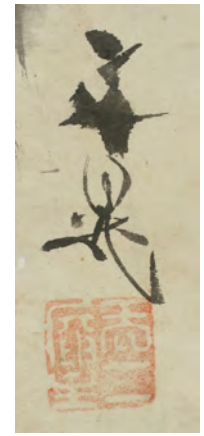
With Shiba Hikosuke (Rissan) (1736-1807)
Waterfall, B*akufu*
瀑布図
c. 1800
Sg: *Bunchō & Rissan* - 文晁、栗山
Sl: Illegible & *Sankondō, Shiba shi Hikosuke, Kyokoku Shiketsu, Shiba Hikosuke*
- 口三近堂、柴彦輔氏、許國四傑、柴邦彦、
Sumi on paper, 120 x 27.5

The inscription is a quote from a known poem
by Li Bai (701-762)
飛流直下三千尺，疑是銀河落九天

The waterfall falls straight down
three thousand feet,
is not this the Milky Way
that descends from the ninth heaven !

The nine celestial bodies that revolve around the Earth, the Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, stars etc.

Waterfall, B*akufu*
瀑布図
c. 1819
Sg: *Bunchō* - 文晁
Sl: *Munian shu* - 無二庵主
Sumi on paper, 161.5 x 82.2



With Watanabe Kazan (1793-1841)

Scholars on a bridge

- 橋上の学者

c. 1838

Sg: *Bunchō hitsu & Kazan Gaishi Watanabe nobori ga dai o kaita*

- 文晁筆、崋山外史渡辺登題

Sls: *Chōsō & Kazan Shōsha, Noboru, Boko*

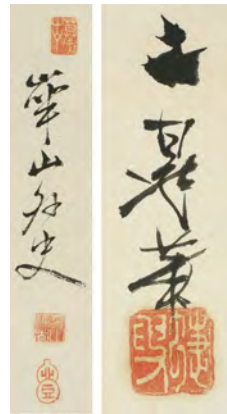
- 蝶叟、崋山樵者、登、鄤古

Sumi and some colours on paper, 172.2 x 59.2

明窓浄机筆硯紙墨極精良亦自
是人生一楽然能得此楽者稀其不爲
外物移其好者又特稀也余晩知此趣
恨字體不工不能到古人佳處若以爲楽則
自是有餘

It is one of life's pleasures to have fine writing material in a bright and clean study.
However, this pleasure is rarely obtained.
It is especially rare that I am not distracted by curious things.
I have finally acquired this enjoyment, but unfortunately my handwriting is not good,
So I cannot get the same pleasure as the old people.
And if should there be pleasure, it would be somewhere else.

Ouyang Shu,
Chinese Song Dynasty
politician and scholar.



Scholars on a bridge,
visiting a friend in the mountains

橋上の学者　渓山訪友之図

1816 - 文化丙子

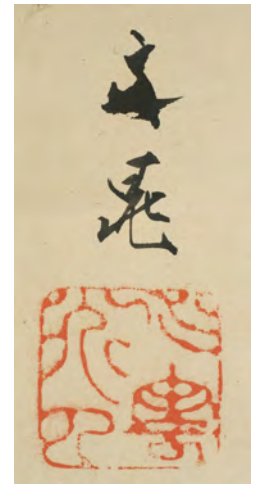
Sg: *Bunchō* - 文晁

Sl: *Bunka Hinoe-ne Bunchō gain*

- 文化丙子文晁画印

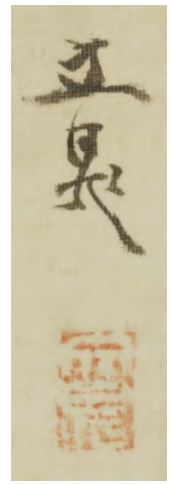
Sumi and some red on paper,
137 x 62

Summer mountains with waterfall
- 夏山瀑布図
c. 1822
Sg: *Bunchō* - 文晁
Sls: *Muni, Gagakusai* - 無二、画學斎
Sumi on silk, 98 x 35.3



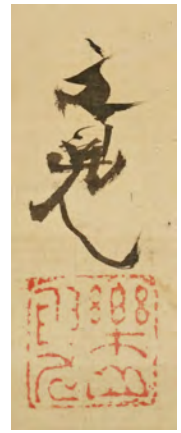
Mountain landscape with waterfall
瀑布山水図
c. 1825
Sg: *Bunchō* - 文晁
Sl: *Suiun dōjin* - 水雲道人
Sumi and little brown on paper, 132.2 x 54.5

Mountain valley
山谿図
Mid-spring 1811 - 辛未仲春
Sg: *Bunchō* - 文晁
Sl: *Bunchō* - 文晁
Sumi and little colour on silk, 99.5 x 34



Rainy landscape
雨中山水図
1852, late autumn - 壬子晩秋
Sg: *sha oite Gagakusai hitsu Bunchō* - 寫於画学斎筆文晁
Sl: *Tani Bunchō in* - 谷文晁印
Sumi and some colours on silk, 99.4 x 33.7

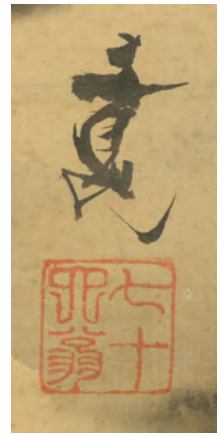
Clouds over a lofty mountain
雲驍山図
March 12, 1838
- 天保九年戊戌三月十二日
Sg: *Bunchō* - 文晁
Sl: *Rakuzan sō* - 楽山叟
Sumi on silk, 42.3 x 51.2



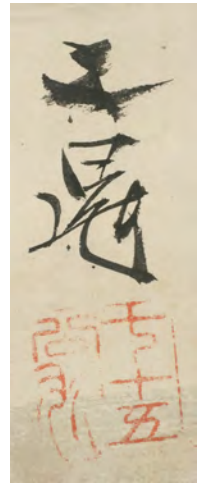
Waterfall in summer mountains
夏山漠布之図
Late autumn in 1830 - 庚寅季秋
Sg: *Hōsōjin hitsu i Bunchō* - 法宋人筆意文晁
Sl: *Rakuzan sō* - 楽山叟
Sumi on silk, 31 x 53

Misty landscape
煙雨山水図
1838
Sg: *Tsuchinoe-inu ko .. sha .. en'u Bunchō*
- 戊戌小口写口煙雨 文晁
Sl: *Nanajūnana okinō* (77) - 七十七翁
Sumi on silk, 37 x 54.6

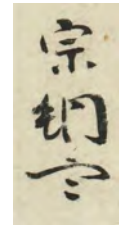
Moored boat under a cliff
崖の下船係留図
1838
Sg: *Bunchō* - 文晁
Sl: *Nanajūrokuō* (76) - 七十六翁
Sumi on silk, 40.5 x 63.5



Mount Fuji
富士圖
1837
Sg: *Bunchō* - 文晁
Sl: *Nanajūgoō* (75) - 七十五翁
Sumi on paper, 32.2 x 58.2



With Unknown
Spring wind over Mount Fuji
富士山の春風
1829
Sg: *Rokujunaanayō* (67) *Bunchō* - 六十七叟文晁
Sl: *Shukuju Manga no ichi* - 祝壽萬画之一
Sumi on paper, 34.8 x 58.2



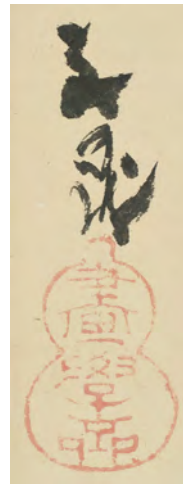
Man on a bridge in a hazy rain landscape
橋の上男の非常霞雨中山水
c.1802
Sg: *Bunchō* - 文晁
Sl: *Bunchō* -文晁
Sumi on silk, 89.6 x 25.2

Costal scene with Mount Fuji
海岸風景の富士図
1839 - 天保己亥
Sg: *Bunchō* - 文晁
Sl: *Tempō tsuchinoto-i Bunchō gain*
- 天保己亥文晁画印
Sumi on silk, 95.4 x 32.4

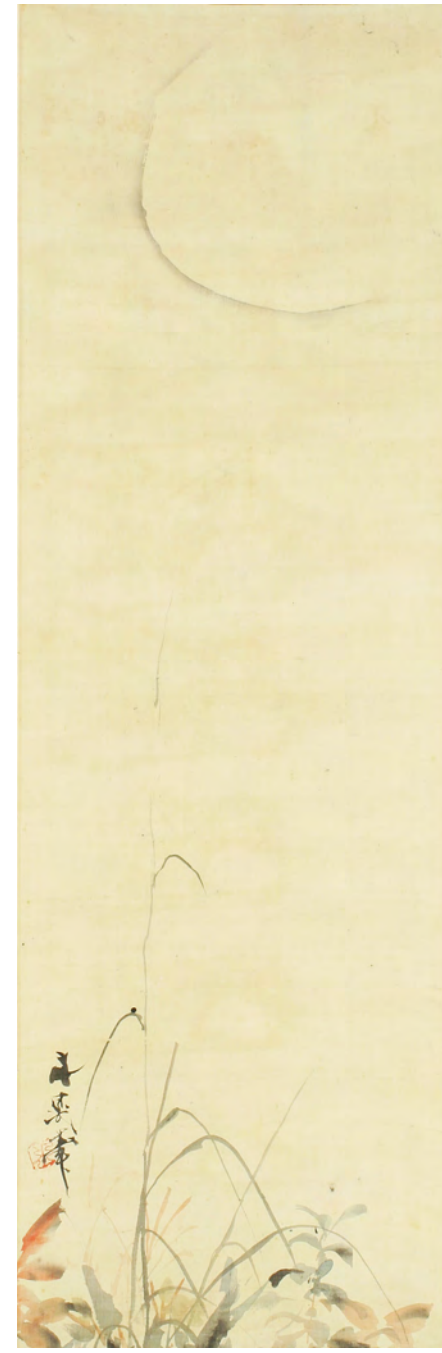
Man in a boat
船上の男図
c. 1823
Sg: *Bunchō* -文晁
Sl: *Bunchō* -文晁
Sumi on grey washed silk, 32.2 x 38.8

Foliage in Buson style
林図 (蕪村派)
c. 1797
Sg: *Bunchō* - 文晁
Sl: Unread (upside down)
Sumi on paper, 27.1 x 30.8

Reeds in full moon
蘆月図
c. 1832
Sg: *Bunchō* - 文晁
Sl: *Gagakusai* - 画學斎
Sumi on paper, 134 x 57



Autumn grasses under the moon
月上秋草図
c. 1827
Sg: *Bunchō hitsu* - 文晁筆
Sl: Illegable
Colours on silk, 89.8 x 29.3



Watanabe Kazan (1793-1841) - 渡辺崋山

Moon and reeds

July 1st 1838 - 日戊戌八月望前一

Sg: *Bunchō hitsu* - 文晁筆

Sls: *Gagaku saiki, Tsuchinoe-inu shū nanajūroku Bunchō, Kazan, Noboru & Kazan*

- 画学斎記、戊戌秀七十六文晁、崋山、登、崋山

Sumi (and red by Kazan) on paper, 126.3 x 42.4

Snow, moon and flowers

雪月花図

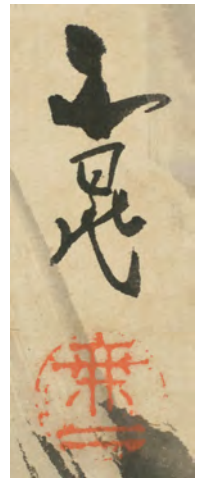
1837

Sg: *Bunchō* - 文晁

Sl: *nanajūgoō* (75) - 七十五翁

Sumi and *gofun* on paper, 93.8 x 28.8

Snow-covered plum
雪中梅図
c. 1826
Sg: *Bunchō* - 文晁
Sl: *Muni* - 無二
Sumi and touches of pink
on paper, 132 x 56.9



With Kikuchi Gozan (1769-1849)
菊池五山
Plum, iron trunk hitting spring
梅、鐵幹支春図
c. 1816
Sg: *Bunchō hitsu & Gozan Kirimago dai*
- 文晁筆、五山桐孫題
Sls: *Gagakusai & Kotsuyuki, Sha Kirimago in, Sha Mugen uji*
- 画學斎、小釣雪、酒桐孫印、酒無絃氏
Sumi on silk, 99,3 x 36,6

漫把媚嫵説趙郎 / 誰信天真鐵石腸
好箇烈香花御史 / 凛然正気立風霜

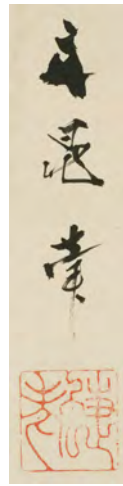
"Pure grace"—that is what Master Zhao called them.
Who could fail to be convinced of their sincerity and steadfast hearts?
Exquisite is the deep fragrance of "the censor of flowers";
with solemnity and the right spirit, they brave wind and frost.

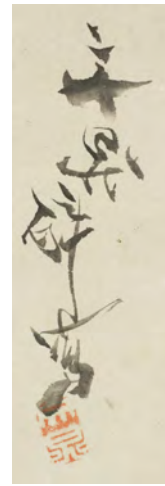
Master Zhao is the Chinese painter and calligrapher Zhao Mengfu (1254-1322).

Bamboo
竹図
Februari 1831 - 辛卯二月寫
Sg: *Bunchō* - 文晁
Sl: *Rakuzan rōjin* - 楽山老人
Sumi on paper, 132 x 56

With Kameda Bōsai (1752-1826)
- 亀田鵬齊
Bamboo
竹図
c. 1822
Sg: *Bunchō & Bōsai Rojin sho*
- 文晁、鵬齊老人書
Sl: unread, *Chōkō Shi-in, Bōsai Kanjin*
- Illegable & 長興私印、鵬齊間人
Sumi on paper, 123.6 x 45

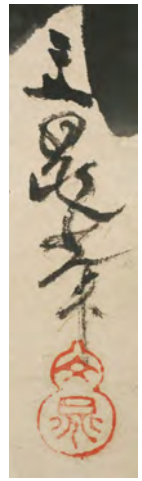
Chrysanthemum, *Kiku*
菊図
c. 1826
Sg: *Bunchō hitsu* - 文晁筆
Sl: *Chōrō* - 蝶老
Sumi on paper, 128 x 54.9

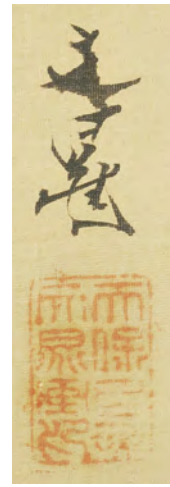




Chrysanthemum and dragonfly
菊花蜻蛉図
c. 1840
Sg: *Bunchō heisha* - 文晁并寫
Sl: *Bunchō* - 文晁
Sumi and little colour on paper, 86 x 20.5

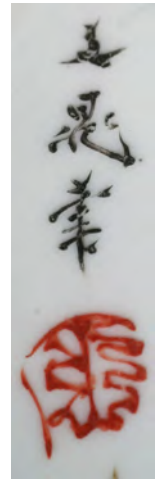
Playing birds
遊鳥図
c. 1817
Sg: *Bunchō* - 文晁
Sl: *Bunchō* - 文晁
Sumi and a little orange on paper, 92 x 27.1





Tiger in the rain
中雨の虎図
1839
Sg: *Bunchō* - 文晁
Sl: *Tempō tsuchinoto-i Bunchō gain* - 天保己亥文晁画印
Sumi on silk, 114.5 x 36.1

Yellow rose, *Yamabuki*
山吹絵
c. 1815
Summer *chawan*, tea bowl - 夏茶碗、冷半
Sg: *Bunchō hitsu* - 文晁筆
Sl: Illegable
White porcelain with an overglaze painting,
Ø 13.5 x 5.2



01 文晁 - *Bunchō*
02 谷文晁印- *Tani Bunchō in*
03 文晁画印 - *Bunchō gain*
04 口 - Illegable
05 画學斎 - *Gagakusai*
06 画学斎記 - *Gagaku saiki*
07 蝶翁 - *Chōō*
08 蝶叟 - *Chōsō*
09 蝶老 - *Chōrō*
10 楽山叟 - *Rakuzan sō*
11 楽山老人 - *Rakuzan rōjin*
12 無二 - *Muni*
13 無二庵主 - *Munian shu*
14 一如居士 - *Inyo koji*
15 水雲道人 - *Suiun dōjin*
16 祝壽萬画之一 - *Shukuju Manga no ichi*
17 七十五翁 - *Nanajūgoō* (75)
18 七十六翁 - *Nanajūrokuō* (76)
19 七十七翁 - *Nanajūnana okinō* (77)
20 天保己亥文晁画 -
Tempō tsuchinoto-i Bunchō gain (1839)
21 戊戌秀七十六文晁 (1838)
Tsuchinoe-inu shū nanajūroku Bunchō
21 文化丙子文晁画印
Bunka Hinoe-ne Bunchō gain
23 Unread

A larger collection of Bunchō seals can be found in:
写山楼谷文晁 - *Shazan-rō Tani Bunchō,*
Tochigi Pref. ArtMuseum, 1979

From: 必携 落款字典 - *Hikei Rakkkan Jiten*