



Plan Your Visit

Federal Hall National Memorial is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

There are numerous ways to get to Federal Hall using public transportation. Please visit www.mta.info for more information and maps.

212-825-6990. www.nps.gov/feha

Obata's Yosemite at Federal Hall

September 8 - 25, 2009

Chiura Obata (1885-1975), born in Okayama-ken, Japan, was one of the earliest Japanese artists to live and work in the United States. He moved to San Francisco in 1903, supporting himself as an illustrator for Japanese language newspapers and magazines, while painting in the moro-tai style of contemporary Japanese art.

In 1927, he visited Yosemite National Park and the Sierra Nevada, where he made approximately 100 drawings in pencil, watercolor and sumi ink. He recalled his visit to Yosemite as the greatest harvest for my whole life and future in painting. The following year, he returned to Japan for a visit and brought 35 of the drawings to be translated into color woodcuts.

Between 1928 and 1930, while Obata was in Tokyo, he transformed these California landscape watercolors and sketches into a limited-edition portfolio titled World Landscape Series. The final intricate woodblock prints -- some required more than 150 separate working proofs -- resemble Obata's watercolors, with lines like brush strokes and areas of delicately layered color. They are characterized by a distinctive merging of Japanese and Western printmaking styles and techniques.

Obata's Yosemite features 27 prints and watercolors and a series of 20 progressive proofs all depicting Yosemite National Park.

