



6450 A six-fold paper screen painted in ink and colour on a buff ground with six horses, tethered to posts. Each horse is rendered as a particular animal through placement, pose and colouration.

Seal: Jippo kin (unidentified)

Japan 16th/17th century Muromachi/Momoyama period

Dimensions: H. 42½" x W. 127¼" (107.5cm x 323cm)

Umayazu byōbu (screens with horses in stables) have been in existence since the Muromachi period (1392-1568). There are mainly two types of these screens. In the first type the stables occupy the whole surface, and each stall has a painting of a horse. The second type along with the depiction of stables and horses include male horsemen and attendants seated on tatami (Japanese floor mats) which run the length of the stalls. A popular subject during the late Momoyama and early Edo periods (16th/17th centuries), these screens reflected the samurai class's enthusiasm and concern for horses during those war-torn years. Often the images of restless, energetic steeds depicted on one screen of a pair, are contrasted with quiet, calm horses on the other.

For similar examples see; *Unfolding Beauty, Japanese Screens* from the Cleveland Museum of Art, p. 8

and 9, pl1. *Japan Heritage as Legend of Gold Biombo*, p. 74 and 75, pl15 owned by the Imperial

Household Agency Sannomaru Shozokan and pp. 76 and 77, pl16 in the collection of the Tokyo National Museum.

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