

Abraham Schroeder is an artist living in the Boston area who works in a variety of two- and three-dimensional media. He holds a B.A from Amherst College and a master's degree from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts Boston. He has studied Japanese art history, language, and culture for more than a decade, and lived in Kyoto, Japan for two years.

This portrait of Daisuke Matsuzaka is a digital image inspired by Japanese woodblock prints, drawn in a computer and printed with archival inks on a Japanese mulberry paper. The tradition of woodblock printing has a long and rich history in Japan. From the 17th to 19th centuries, ukiyo-e, images of the floating world, depicted scenes and people from daily life around Japan, often focusing on popular celebrities, famous actors, renowned beauties, and sumo wrestlers. These prints could be thought of as the fashion and entertainment magazines of the day, keeping fans up to date with the activities of their favorite stars. Daisuke Matsuzaka's status as a sports star and international celebrity is consistent with the celebrity that would surround a wrestler or actor who might be portrayed in a 19th century print.

A copy of the print is currently on display at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, as part of the special exhibition *Rockwell and the Shinjin: Celebrating Baseball and the Red Sox*, on view until September 22, 2008. This print is not yet officially licensed with Daisuke Matsuzaka, the Boston Red Sox, or Major League Baseball, but negotiations are in progress.