

A word about Daisuke and ukiyo-e

The huge amount of excitement and buzz surrounding the event of Daisuke Matsuzaka coming to Boston, and his status as a sports star and international celebrity, is consistent with the kind of buzz that would surround a wrestler or actor who might be portrayed in a 19th century Japanese woodblock print.

The tradition of woodblock printing has a long and rich history in Japan. From the 17th to 19th centuries, ukiyo-e (浮世絵), images of the floating world, depicted scenes and people from daily life in Edo (Tokyo) and all 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.

In Schroeder's conversion of a Japanese Red Sox star to an ukiyo-e print, he considered styles and elements from a variety of images by many different artists, including Utamaro, Hiroshige, Kuniyoshi, and Kunisada.

This is a digital image, drawn in a computer and printed in limited edition with archival inks on a Japanese *kōzoshi* (楮紙), mulberry paper. It was important to Schroeder to include wood grain, signature and censor seals, and descriptive cartouches as key elements in the composition to pay tribute to the woodblock printing process and history.

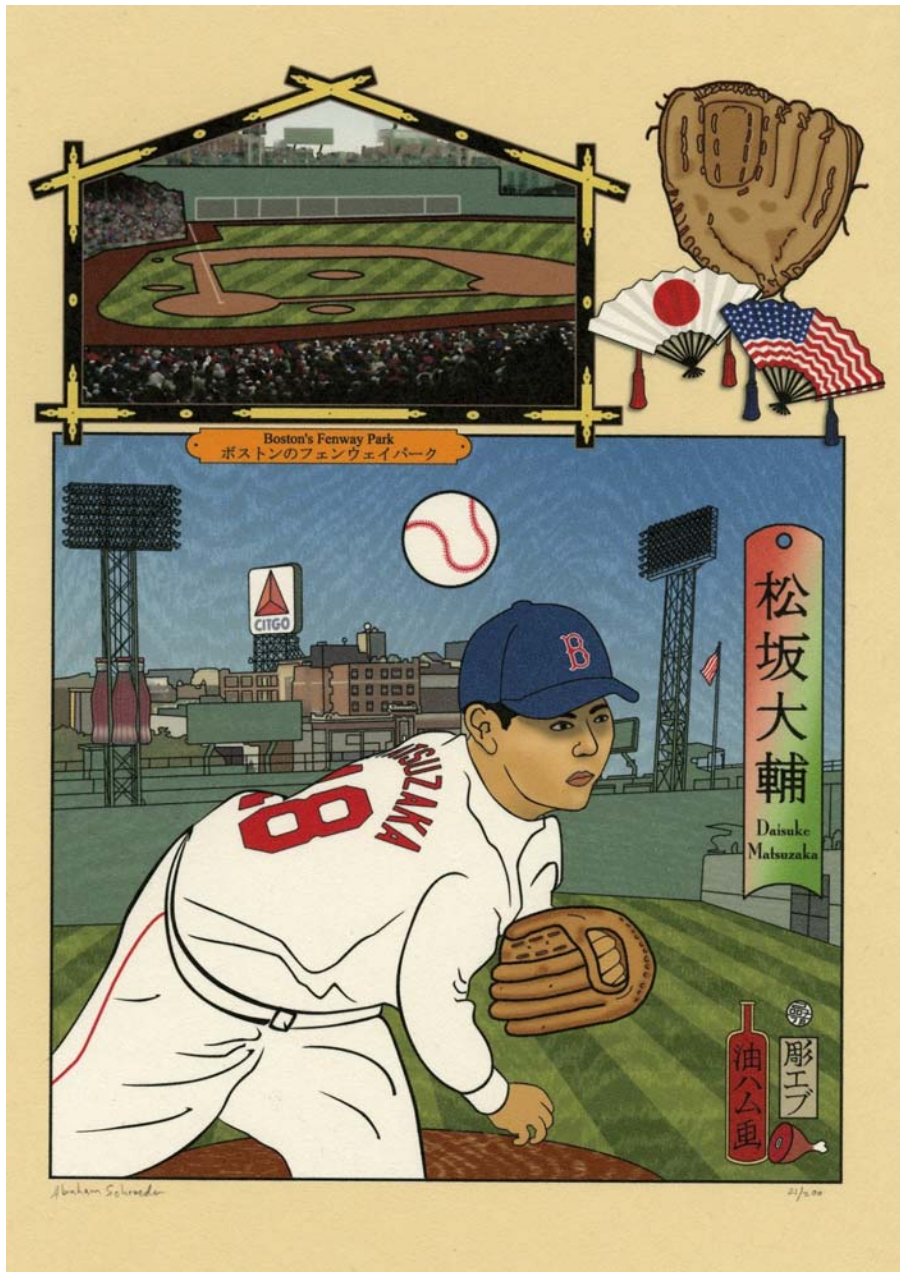
This print is not yet officially licensed with Daisuke Matsuzaka, the Boston Red Sox, or Major League Baseball, and is not yet for sale, but negotiations are in progress.

A copy is currently being exhibited in the Museum of Fine Arts Boston as part of *Rockwell and the Shinjin*, on view until September 22, 2008.

In addition to making a lot of digital artwork, Schroeder works in a variety of two- and three-dimensional media. Please feel free to call or e-mail with any questions or comments.

abrahamarama@yahoo.com

617-671-8597



Abraham Schroeder, *Portrait of Daisuke Matsuzaka*, 2007
Archival Digital Print on Japanese Mulberry Paper, 13 x 9.75"