



Tokaido Road: A Journey After Hiroshige

By Nancy Gaffield

Shearsman Books, United Kingdom, 2014. Pamphlet. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. This is the Libretto to Nicola LeFanu s opera, Tokaido Road. In 1832 the young Hiroshige sets out on Japan s great Eastern Sea Road, the Tokaido, linking Edo (Tokyo) and Kyoto. The paintings he creates along the way reveal the secrets of a hidden country. As the young artist, Hiro savours all his adventures - not least the amorous ones - and his paintings bring to life everyone he meets: old men and beautiful women, samurai and geisha, pilgrims, porters and passers-by. Hiroshige in old age is present in the opera too, reflecting on what had gripped his imagination twenty-five years earlier. Behind every welcoming teahouse (station) on the Tokaido, there was another story: poverty, persecution, famine. Hiroshige braved the government censor by publishing prints that show the horror of death through starvation. His work reminds us of the power of art to bear witness.



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Reviews

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