

E 54 FUJI FROM HAKONE LAKE

THE SCHOOL OF YOKOHAMA THE CESCHIN PILONE / FAGIOLI COLLECTION

In Japan, during the second half of the 19th century, an extraordinary pairing took place. The Western photographic technique teamed up with the traditional mastery of the local painters, who were able to apply colour perfectly even on tiny areas. The artistic outcome was astonishingly beautiful, and the subjects that were represented were so credible as to make it difficult to distinguish between the best works and modern colour photographs. The authors of these masterpieces were more than a thousand artists, both Westerners and Japanese: they portrayed a world that was being visibly transformed. While from a technical point of view what was later to be known in the history of photography as the “School of Yokohama” represented one of the peaks of 19th century photography, if not its actual climax, from a cultural point of view it was a unique case, not only because of the homogeneousness and recognisability of its language, but also because of the originality and value of the aesthetic and stylistic principles it managed to express.







