

## 59. Einen (19th century)

### “Flowers and Birds by Stream”

Pair of hanging scrolls, ink and color on silk  
Each 125.2 x 60.5 cm. (49 1/4 x 23 7/8 in.)

Inscriptions:

“Einen.”

Artist’s seals:

*Shoto*



The right-hand scroll features lovely morning glories, and hibiscus, their vertical orientation leading the eye upward to the pair of birds above. In the left-hand scroll of the pair, narcissus appear at the base of a flowering osmanthus tree, which leans over the blue stream with movement suggested by curving lines in gold. The composition is very well balanced, the colors applied with great delicacy, and the mood lively—all-in-all an excellent means by which to brighten and beautify any room.

The signature of the artist is clearly legible, as is the legend of his seals, but an artist named Einen does not appear in standard biographical sources. Judging on the basis of style, he must have followed the Rimpa school, or have been strongly influenced by it, and was likely to have been active during the late 19th or even early 20th century.