

## 田中一光の墨戯

### THE INK-PLAY OF TANAKA IKKO



A Collection of over 130 books, catalogues, and pamphlets as well as 200 original posters.

Maggs Bros are pleased to be able to offer for sale an extraordinary collection of books and posters by one of the greatest designers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century: Tanaka Ikko. He was born in Nara in 1930. After graduating from the Kyoto City College of Fine Arts in 1950 he worked in various advertising departments (incl. Kanebo & Osaka Sankei Shinbun). Tanaka moved to Tokyo in 1957 setting up his own design studio in 1963. From there he went from strength to strength. In 1975 he was appointed Art Director of the Saison Group, which included the Seibu Department Store, the Seibu Theatre, Seiyu, Sezon Museum of Art, and later on Muji. It was one of the most powerful corporations in Japan. Other designers might have been satisfied in dealing with any one of these subsidiaries but Tanaka dominated all of them and took on more: important clients included Kodansha, Morisawa Font, Mazda, Issey Miyake, Ferragamo, and Shiseido.

Tanaka was a man obsessed by his work and a perfectionist. He insisted on the studio being absolutely clean. Absolutely. If he detected a fleck of dust on somebody's desk he was prone to fly into a rage and nobody would be able to work that day. In many aspects of his work Tanaka was a traditionalist. He had the ability of grasping elements from the rich tradition of his country and turning them into something entirely fresh and contemporary. He often referred to the Rimpa school - founded by Hon'ami Koetsu (1558-1637) and developed by the brothers Ogata Korin (1658-1716) and Ogata Kenzan (1663-1743) in the 18<sup>th</sup> century - as one of the sources of his inspiration. The other important strand of influence came from European Modernism, in particular the

Bauhaus. Tanaka manipulated all of these, played, took and discarded. Not content with one style, he constantly reinvented himself and if there was a unifying factor it was that he was the master of them all. His work seems natural, effortless, and light. Later in his life he became an avid practitioner of the tea ceremony that he constantly sought to innovate and revitalize. In his spare time he practised a form of calligraphy that he called 'ink-play' (bokugi 墨戯), elements of which came to be used in poster-work during the 1980s and 90s. During his lifetime he produced over 5000 works. Over 40 solo-exhibitions of his work were shown worldwide. His sudden death on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2002 came as a shock to everybody who knew him.

Throughout his career he received a large number of important awards, amongst them: Advertising Artists Club Prize (1960); Warsaw International Poster Biennial, Silver Prize (1968); 4<sup>th</sup> Kodansha Cultural Publishing Prize for Book Design (1973); The 19<sup>th</sup> Mainichi Design Award (1973), Minister of Education Prize for the Arts (Encouragement for Freshman, 1980); Japan Advertising Artists Club (Nissenbi) Prize (1983); Yamana Prize (1983); 6<sup>th</sup> Lahti (Finland) International Poster Biennial (1983), Second Place in Culture Category (1985); Tokyo ADC Members Grand Prize (1985); New York ADC Gold Prize (1986); Japan Bunka Design Grand Prix (1991); Japan Typography Association Grand Prize (1996); 29<sup>th</sup> Mainichi Art Prize; Kuwazawa Special Prize (1998); the Asahi Prize (1998); and the First Kamekura Yusaku Design Award (1999). In addition he was a recipient of the Purple Ribbon Medal (1994).

*A full-colour hard-copy catalogue, from which the samples on the following pages are taken, is available on request*

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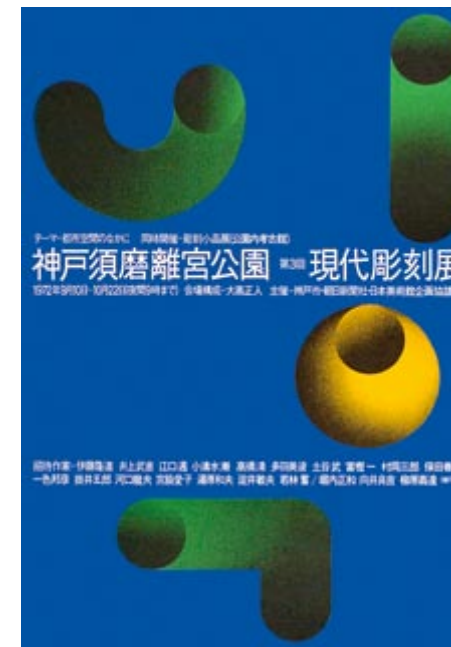
TANAKA (Ikko). Sapporo '72. Silk Screen Poster. B1. In fine condition. Tokyo, Nissenbi-ten, 1968.



TANAKA (Ikko). Sekai Shogyo Dezaian Ten [Exhibition of Commercial Design in the World]. Silk Screen Poster. B1. In fine condition. Tokyo, Kyodo Tsushin-sha, 1959.



TANAKA (Ikko). HERDEG (Walter), editor. Gphis annual 85/86. First edition. Numerous colour photographic plates and illustrations. English, German, and French text. Folio. Original boards in dustwrapper, pen inscription on top for-edge, still a very good copy. 260pp. Zurich, Graphis Press Corp., 1985.



TANAKA (Ikko). Dai 3-kai Kobe Suma Rikyu Koen Gendai Chokoku Ten [The 3rd Contemporary Sculpture Exhibition at the Suma Rikyu Park in Kobe]. Silk Screen Poster. B2. In fine condition. Kobe-shi, 1972.

THE INKPLAY OF TANAKA IKKO



TANAKA (Ikko). St[reet].  
Offset poster. B1. In fine  
condition. Tokyo,  
Morisawa, 1988.



TANAKA (Ikko). SEIGO  
(Matsuoka). Nihon no  
Taipogurafikku Dezaian  
- Transition of Modern  
Typography in Japan 1925-95.  
First edition, second printing.  
Numerous plates, mostly in  
colour. Japanese text. Folio.  
Original flexible boards in  
dustwrapper and obi, a fine  
copy. 223pp. Tokyo,  
Trans Art, 2001.



TANAKA (Ikko). Universal  
Networking Language 1996.  
Offset poster. B1. Fine condition.  
Kokuren Daigaku, 1996.

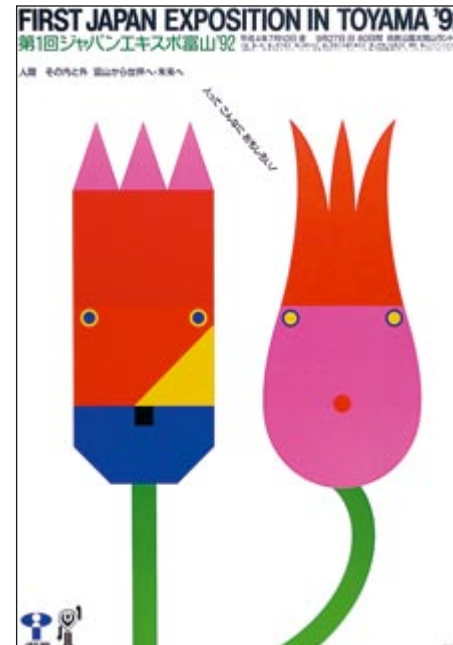


TANAKA (Ikko). YOSHIDA  
(Mitsukuni). Hana no  
Bunkashi. [A Cultural History  
of the Flower]. First edition.  
Several illustrations in the  
text. Japanese text. Small 8vo.  
Original cloth in decorated  
slipcase, a very good copy.  
189pp. Tokyo, Tankosha, 1992.

THE INKPLAY OF TANAKA IKKO



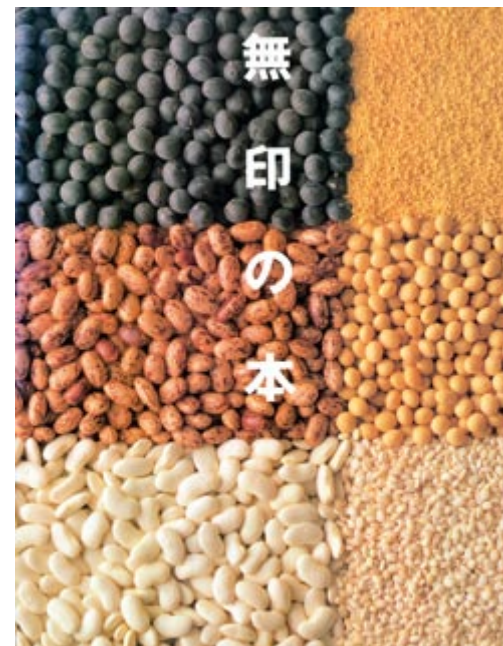
TANAKA (Ikko). IZUMI (Masakazu). Suki no miyako; Kyoto mirai kukan bijutsukan [The Capital of Taste: The Future Space Museum in Kyoto]. First edition. Numerous colour photographic plates. Text in Japanese. Large 8vo. Original flexible decorated boards in slipcase, a very good copy. 198pp. Kyoto, Tanko-sha, 1995.



TANAKA (Ikko). Dai 1-kai Japan Ekisupo Toyama '92 - First Japan Exposition in Toyama '92. Offset poster. B1. In fine condition. Toyama ken, 1992.



TANAKA (Ikko). SAKAGAMI (Hiroshi). Yasashii Hitobito [Gentle Humans]. First edition. 8vo. Original decorated cloth in decorated slipcase with obi, a very good copy. 266pp. Tokyo, Kawade Shobo Shinsha, 1976.

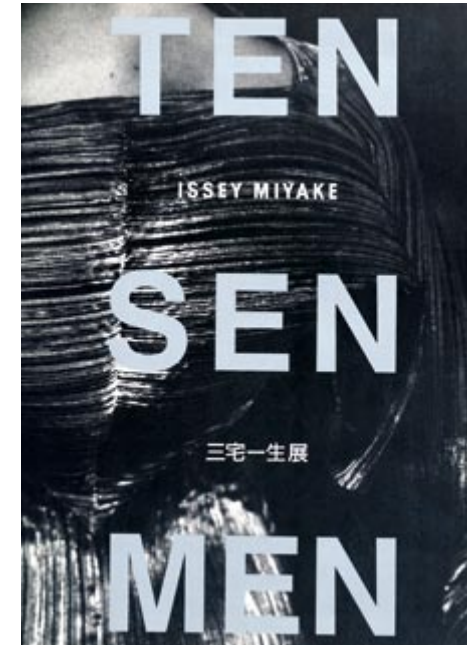


TANAKA (Ikko). NAITO (Tadayuki), and others. MUJI no hon [A book of MUJI]. First edition. Numerous photographic plates. Folio. Original decorated flexible boards, a very good copy. 159pp. Tokyo, Libroport, 1988.

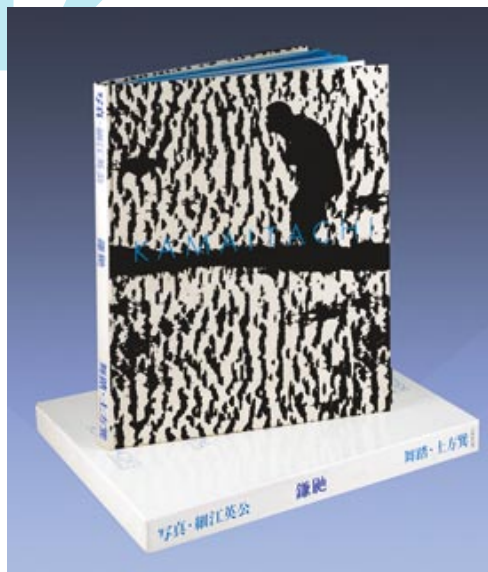
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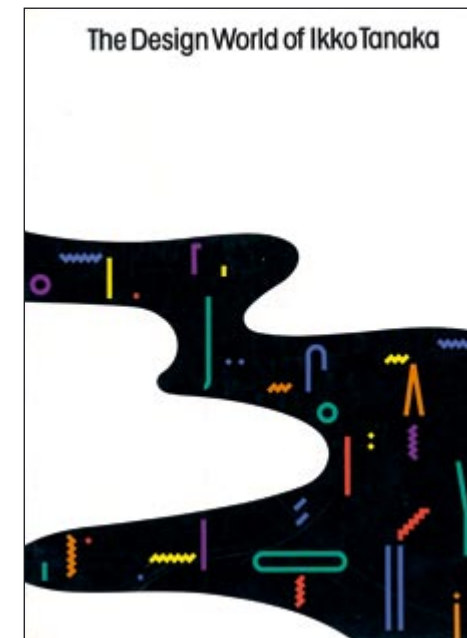
**TANAKA (Ikko). CALZA (Gian Carlo). Tanaka Ikko - La Grafica del Giappone.** First edition. Numerous photographic plates. Text in Italian. Folio. Original flexible boards, a fine copy. 271pp. Milan, Electa, 1997.



**TANAKA (Ikko). MIYAKE (Issei). Ten Sen Men.** First and only edition. Numerous photographic plates, several in colour. Text in English and Japanese. Small folio. Original printed wrappers, a very good copy. 110pp. Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, 1990.



**TANAKA (Ikko). HOSOE (Eikoh). Kamaitachi [Weasel's Slash].** First edition. One of a limited edition of 1000 copies (un-numbered). 34 double-page photographic plates. Text in both English and Japanese. Folio. Original decorated cloth in (damaged) plastic dustwrapper, slipcase and cardboard box (minor wear and damage), but overall a very good copy. [x](text)pp. Tokyo, Gendai Shichosha, 1969.



**TANAKA (Ikko). Tanaka Ikko Dezain no sekai - The Design World of Tanaka Ikko.** First edition. Numerous plates, most of which in colour. Text in English and Japanese. Folio. Original flexible boards in decorated slipcase, a very good copy. 297pp. Tokyo, Kodansha, 1987.