



Komori Calendar 2008

Six Seasonal Airs

Masayoshi Nakajo

The Komori 2008 calendar is *Six Seasonal Airs* by Masayoshi Nakajo, one of Japan's most noted graphic designers and art directors. This is the fourth calendar in Komori's 10-part 'Graphic Arts of Japan' series. These calendars have won several coveted awards for design and printing.



Profile of the Artist

After completing studies at the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music in 1956, Masayoshi Nakajo launched a career in art direction for global brands such as Shiseido that has spanned publication design, logo projects and corporate identity work. The recipient of numerous awards as an art director, typographer, and illustrator, Nakajo has held many well-received exhibitions, has authored several books on graphic design, and also serves as a juror for major awards in the field of design and art direction.

Six Seasonal Airs by Masayoshi Nakajo uses natural motifs consisting of Japanese flora changing with the seasons: pines on craggy rocks for January-February, *sakura* in March-April, Japanese wisteria for May-June, morning glories in July-August, chrysanthemums for September-October, and Japanese roses in November-December.

Nakajo's illustrations are embellished with an array of geometric patterns and mosaic fragments — some resembling family crests while others echo the fine patterns that adorn kimono. These are further ornamented with characters that bear a resemblance to hieroglyphics.

The designs comprise strange forms whose mystery draws the eye. Gazing at them steadily, one experiences mysterious sensations pregnant with meaning. The compositions erase the boundary between reality and fiction and employ devices such as plays on Japanese characters and superstitions, allowing the viewer's imagination to make sense out of these many elements.

