

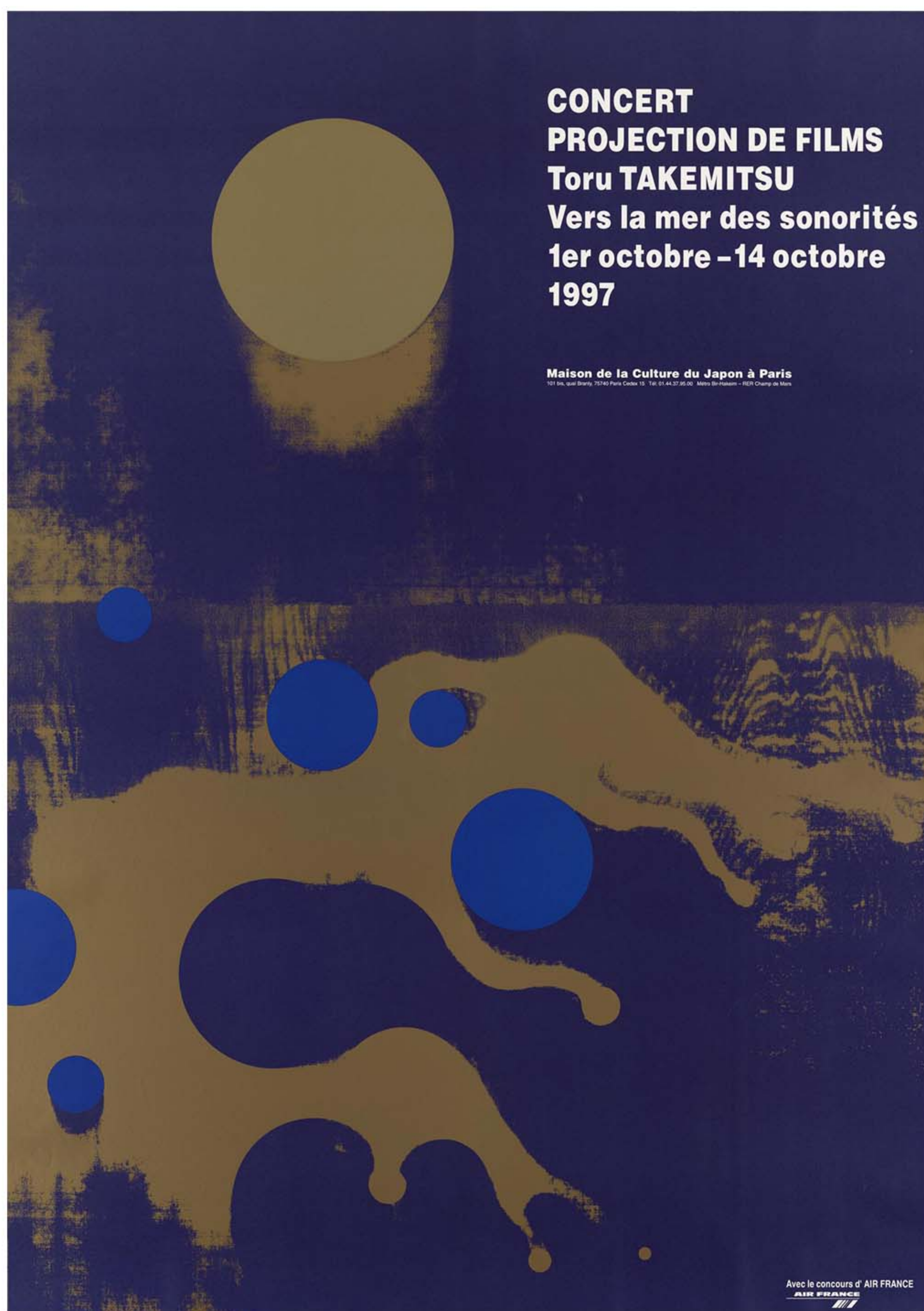
# IKKO TANAKA

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Ikko Tanaka (田中一光) was a graphic designer known for combining a contemporary style with traditional Japanese art and aesthetics.

## Nihon Buyo

UCLA  
Asian Performing Arts  
Institute 1981  
Los Angeles  
Washington, D.C.  
New York



◀ Concert and Film Showing - Toru Takemitsu: Towards the Sea, 1997, offset print on paper.

▲ *Nihon Buyo*, 1981, offset print on paper.

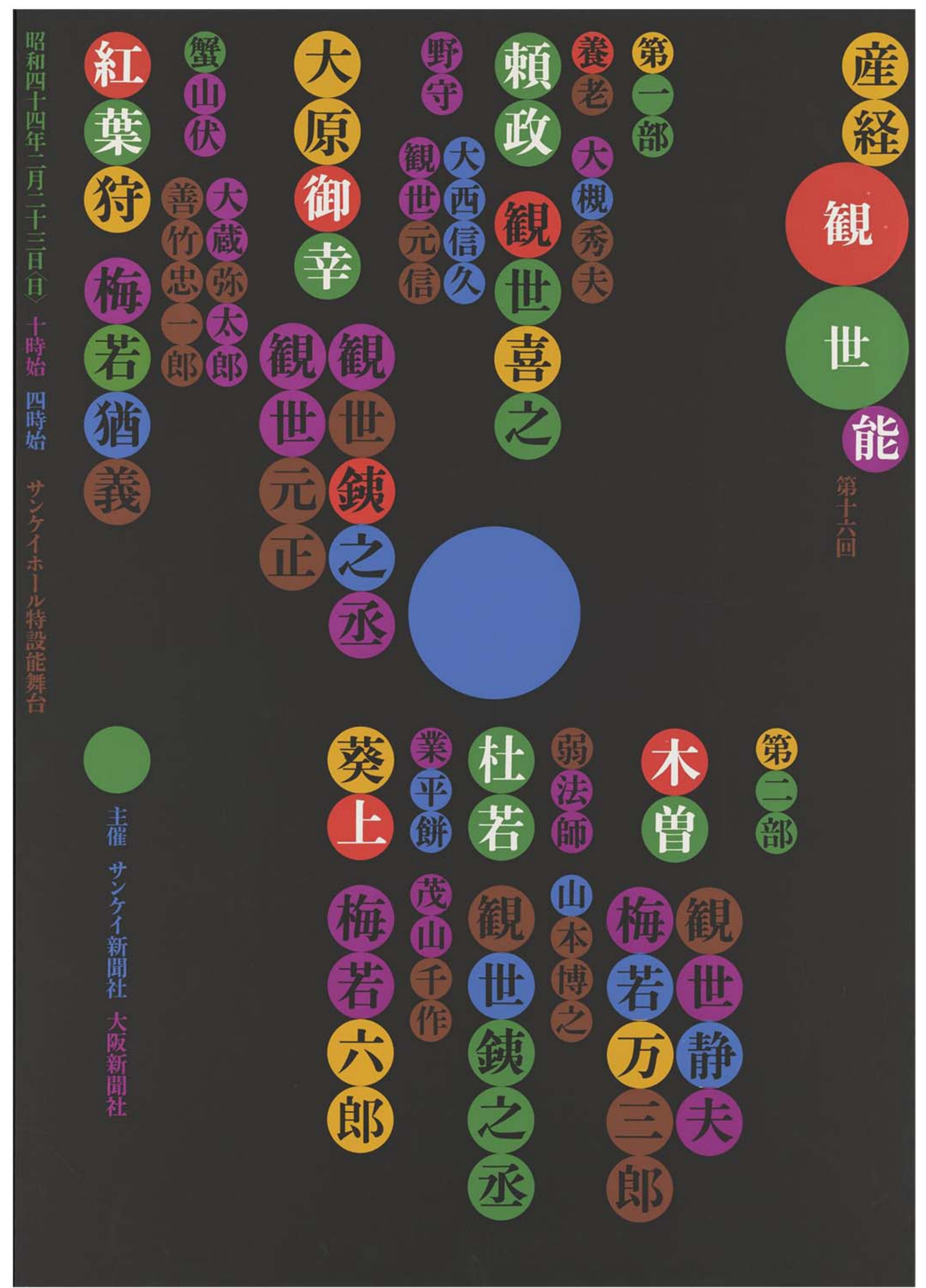
**“EVEN A TOTAL LACK OF DECORATION CAN, PROVIDED IT IS UNDERPINNED BY NECESSITY, CONSTITUTE AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF DESIGN.”**



# BIOGRAPHY

- Born in 1930 in Nara, Japan
- Studied at the Kyoto City School of Fine Arts
- Began working as a designer in the late 1950s
- Was known for his expertise in both Japanese art as well as Western design principles, favoring minimalism over realism
- Died in Tokyo in 2002

*The New Spirit of Japanese Design: Print*, 1984, offset print on paper.



▲ *The 16th Sankei Kanze Noh Performance*, 1969, offset print on paper.

- Established the Ikko Tanaka Design Studio in Tokyo in 1963
- Heavily involved in theater groups and dramatic arts throughout his life, making many posters for theatrical performances
- Was the art director and a co-creator of Muji, a Japanese retail company known for its minimalist style and emphasis on recycling
- Bridged the gap between professional designers and experimental art
- Joined New York Art Directors' Club Hall of Fame in 1994