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

"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


- 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