

# *Bird Silhouettes*



*in Japanese Screenprinted Art*

## Introduction

If the source of light illuminating an object is behind it we may see only a silhouette (i.e., outline of the object's shape). For example, in the picture below the sun is behind the two birds so we see only their **shapes** clearly.



This picture of silhouetted gulls (*Larus* sp.), entitled journey III, is one of a series of screenprints made by the Japanese artist Shigeyuki Ōhashi. To make this screenprint, the picture's design was first drawn on a screen (i.e., piece of mesh fabric held taut in a frame) using an ink-resistant substance. Then a piece of paper was placed beneath the screen and ink was applied. The ink only passed through areas of the screen not covered by the ink-resistant substance to reproduce the design in reverse on the paper below. The strongly graded color evident in this screenprint was achieved by placing the ink at one end of the screen and drawing it to the other end using a squeegee. The color became progressively lighter as the quantity of ink decreased. This method of printmaking is very useful for making pictures of silhouetted objects and silhouetted birds are particularly well represented in Japanese screenprinted art. Twenty additional examples are included in this virtual exhibition. These screenprints of silhouetted birds are part of the Reader Collection of Japanese Flower-and-Bird Art. For each print the following information is given: names of the bird (if known) and artist, picture title (if any), date (if any) and print size.

**1** Gull (*Larus* sp.) by Shin'ichi Yoshizu, entitled Breeze I, 275 x 290 mm



**2** Gull (*Larus* sp.) by Shin'ichi Yoshizu, entitled shadow dance I, 300 x 310 mm



3 Crane (*Grus* sp.) by  
Shin'ichi Yoshizu, entitled  
dancing crane, 440 x 330 mm



4 Crane (*Grus* sp.) by  
Shin'ichi Yoshizu, entitled  
stardust, 480 x 365 mm



5 Hawk (*Accipiter* sp.) by Hidenobu Oshima, 210 x 275 mm



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6 Egret (*Egretta* sp.) by Hidenobu Oshima, 210 x 275 mm



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7 Dove (*Columba* sp.) by Hiroshi Kubota, 260 x 270 mm



8 Dove (*Columba* sp.) by Hiroshi Kubota, 315 x 270 mm



**9** Gull (*Larus* sp.) by Kōzō Inoue, entitled gull IV, 1982, 660 x 500 mm



**10** Gull (*Larus* sp.) by Kōzō Inoue, entitled seagull, 330 x 255 mm



**11** Dove (*Columba* sp.) by Kōzō Inoue, 120 x 170 mm



**12** Sandpiper (*Calidris* sp.) by Kōzō Inoue, 120 x 170 mm





**13** Unknown bird by Kōtarō Yoshioka, entitled shade, 480 x 380 mm



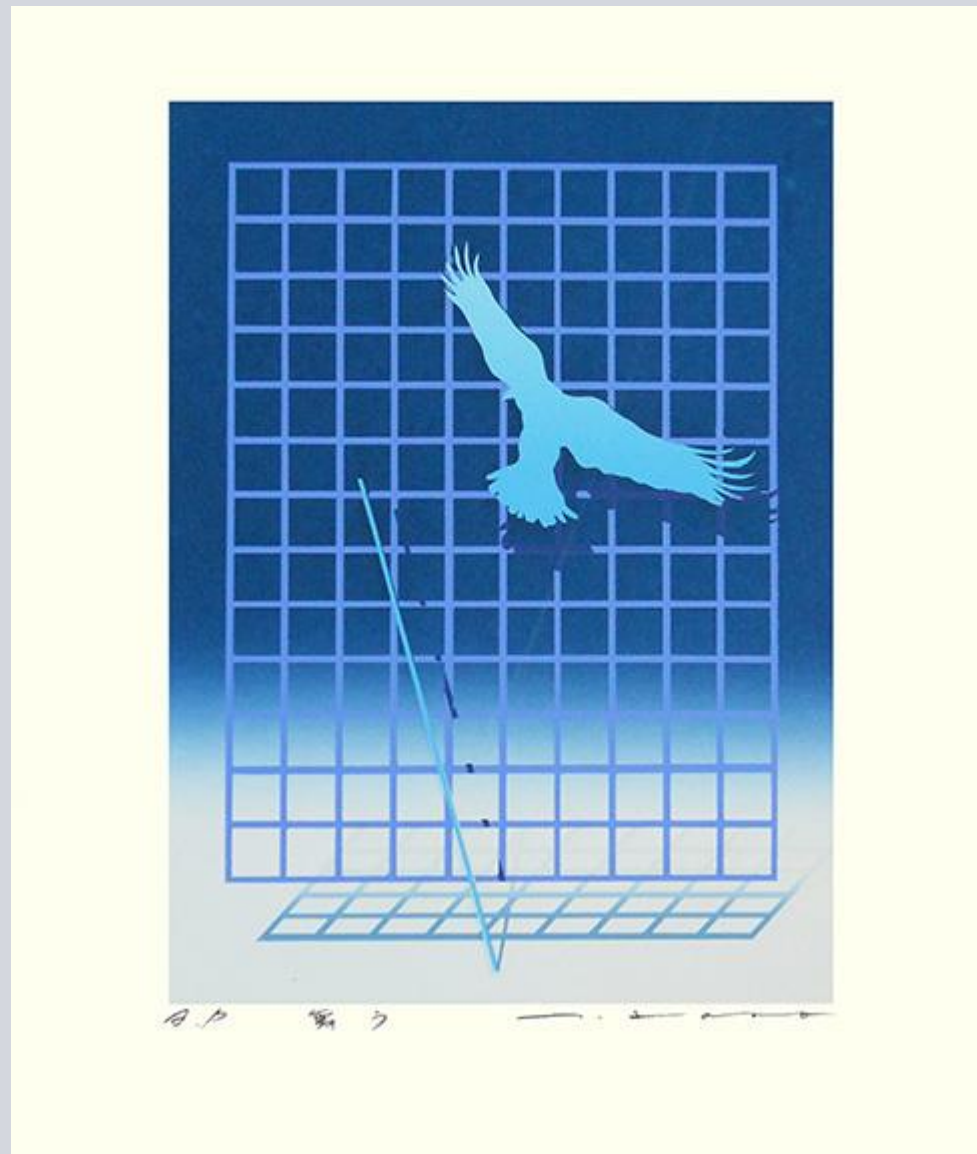
**14** Gull (*Larus* sp.) by Teruo Emori, entitled bird group, 275 x 200 mm



**15** Gull (*Larus* sp.) by Teruo Emori, entitled flying, 195 x 275 mm



**16** Eagle (*Aquila* sp.) by Shigeru Sano, entitled dance, 310 x 360 mm



**17** Unknown bird by Shigeyuki Ōhashi, entitled white bird VI, 1987, 260 x 270 mm



**18** Gull (*Larus* sp.) by Shigeyuki Ōhashi, 1995, 290 x 300 mm



**19** Gull (*Larus* sp.) by Shigeyuki Ōhashi, 1990, 380 x 275 mm



**20** Gull (*Larus* sp.) by Shigeyuki Ōhashi, 1990, 375 x 275 mm



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