

## The Art of Japanese Fans

The Japanese folding fan and its applied *urushi* lacquer work  
~ its history and the fan-making process  
with a video presentation and lecture ~

by

Mr. KANJI ISHIZUMI

Kanji Ishizumi is a fifth generation member of the prestigious Ishizumi & Co. fan making company which exported around one million fans a year from Kyoto in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Kanji was born in Kyoto, Japan in 1947 and lived there until graduating from Kyoto University. Following his father's retirement in 1982, Kanji became the head of the family business. Ishizumi & Co. remains a family-run business, with Kanji, his wife Naomi and their daughter Tomo all working within the company. Kanji frequently travels throughout America and Europe attending and taking part in seminars and exhibitions promoting the beauty and exquisite craftsmanship of Japanese fans. Ishizumi & Co. continues to commission many fan artists in Kyoto, Wajima, Osaka, Tokyo, as well as European and American painters of fan illustrations. In 2002, Kanji donated to the British Museum the Gigantic Fan of 1892, which his great-great grandfather, former Chairman of the Fan Exporters Association of Kyoto, made for exhibition at the Chicago and Paris EXPOs.

Prepared by

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