HARMONIZED CHEQUERED EMBLEM STUDY
FOR TOKYO 2020 OLYMPIC GAMES
(EVEN EDGED MATTERS COULD FORM HARMONIZED CIRCLE WITH “RULE”)

Asao Tokolo
(Artist)

My designs for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic emblems are circles in ai (Japanese indigo), both composed of equal numbers of rectangles obtained by connecting the middle points of rhombuses, a pattern I named Kumi-ichimatsu-mon. Highly weather-resistant, Japanese indigo printing ink is a strong and beautiful color that stays true over time. In these designs, “individual” rectangles form “groups” under “rules.” The designs were created partly on the computer, partly by hand. My aim was to create a “relay baton” to be passed on from 2020 to future generations. I created the designs as a tribute to the Tokyo 1964 designers, who relied on compasses and rulers for their creations, and by imagining what mediums would be employed by designers of the future. The original drawings for the designs were executed by hand, with their visual guide lines, tentative lines, and traces of erased lines acting as projections of physicality. With a deep respect for athletes, I gave my full commitment to creating symbols of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.