Akari Light Sculptures

Isamu Noguchi, 1951



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In 1951 the Japanese-American artist Isamu Noguchi began to design the Akari Light Sculptures, a group of works handcrafted out of washi paper that eventually comprised over 100 luminaires – table, floor and ceiling lamps. He chose the name ,akari' for these objects, a word that means ,light' in Japanese, connoting both illumination and physical lightness.

,The harshness of electricity is thus transformed through the magic of paper back to the light of our origin – the sun – so that its warmth may continue to fill our rooms at night.' Isamu Noguchi Each luminaire is meticulously crafted by hand in the Ozeki workshop, a traditional family-run company based in Gifu. In a first step, bamboo rods are stretched across the original wooden forms designed by Noguchi to make the framework that determines the object's shape. Washi paper, derived from the bark of the mulberry tree, is cut into strips and then glued to the bamboo ribbing. After the glue has dried, the wooden form is removed and the shade can be folded.

The Akari Light Sculptures are marked with a stylised sun-and-moon logo, which also resembles the corresponding Japanese characters. This symbol guarantees the authenticity of each product.

Materials

- Lampshades: washi paper, some partially painted. Some models with end pieces in wood/bamboo.
- Structure: bamboo/steel wire.
- Legs: painted steel wire.



Akari 1A 430x250x250



Akari 3X 380x230x230





Akari 1AG 430x260x260



Akari 1AY 430x260x260



Akari 1N 390x250x250



Akari 26N

610x350x350





Akari UF2-33N 710x300x300



Akari XP1

380x220x220

Akari 3A 560x280x280



Akari 3AD 560x250x250



Akari UF1-H

510x200x200

Akari 9AD 620x440x440



Akari 20N

630x420x420

Akari UF3-Q 1450x560x560



Akari 7A

630x300x300





Akari 9A



Akari YA2 510x360x360



Akari UF4-L8 1880x410x410



Akari 10A 1230x530x530

Akari UF4-33N

1900x470x470



Akari 13A 1360x490x490



Akari UF4-L10 1930x480x480



Akari 14A 1580x510x510



Akari BB3-33S 1700x750x250

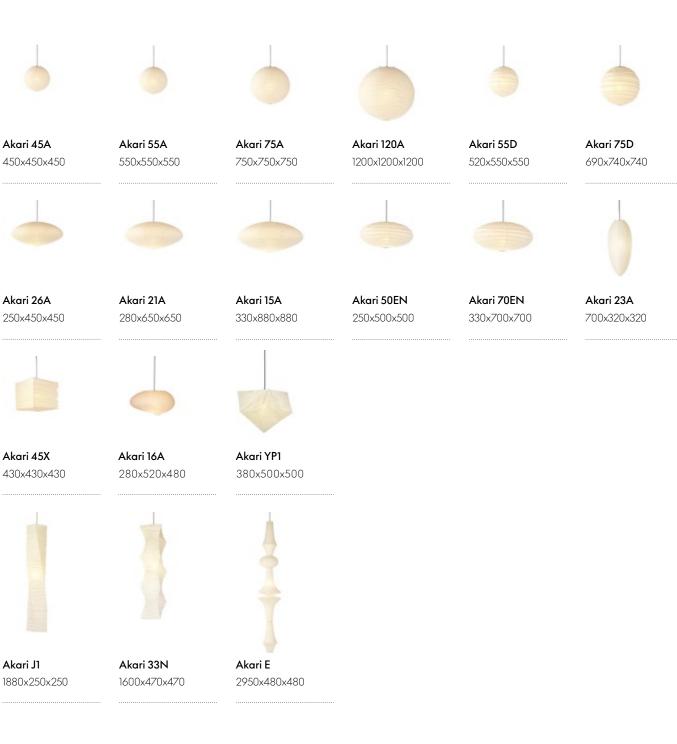


Akari BB3-55DD 1850x530x530



620x440x440

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