

The Noguchi Museum Shop Presents *Early Patterns: Reintroducing Akari of the 1950s*

The Noguchi Museum Shop, Long Island City, New York
Wednesday, May 17 – Sunday, May 28, 2023



Isamu Noguchi's Akari light sculptures on display in *Akari: Lamps by Isamu Noguchi*, Chuo Koron Gallery, Tokyo, August 2-7, 1954. The Noguchi Museum Archives, 07137.
© The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum, NY / Artists Rights Society

The Noguchi Museum Shop will present six rare models of Akari light sculptures designed by Isamu Noguchi in the early 1950s, and make these designs available for sale in North America for the first time in decades, coinciding with NYCxDesign week.

The six Akari, produced by their original manufacturer Ozeki & Co., Ltd. in Gifu, Japan, are tabletop scale and feature lacquered bamboo collars (*wa*), directly relating them to more traditional forms of the Japanese lantern but with Noguchi's signature departures. Five of the six Akari feature colorful, abstract patterns silk-screened onto the mulberry bark (*washi*) paper.

These early designs for Akari were first shown in exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art, Kamakura, in 1952, and at the Chuo Koron Gallery, Tokyo, in 1954. In the decades following, these particular models became available only in limited quantities in Japan and France, until now, as The Noguchi Museum expands its offerings to showcase the entire range of what remains in production of Noguchi's iconic light sculptures.

The presentation in the Museum Shop, from May 17-28, will be the public's first opportunity to view the works in-person and purchase them prior to their availability online, and will also include archival materials related to the history of Akari. The Noguchi Museum Shop is open Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 am - 6 pm. Museum visitor information: [noguchi.org/visit](https://www.noguchi.org/visit).

LOCATION & HOURS

The Noguchi Museum Shop
9-01 33rd Road (@ Vernon Boulevard)
Long Island City, NY 11106
noguchi.org/shop | shop@noguchi.org

Open Wednesdays–Sundays
11 am–6 pm

MEDIA CONTACTS

Andrey & Melissa Public Relations

Andrey Furmanovich, Melissa Olster
noguchi@andreyandmelissa.com

Noguchi Museum Press Office

communications@noguchi.org

ABOUT THE NOGUCHI MUSEUM SHOP

The Noguchi Museum Shop makes available much of Isamu Noguchi's work in design, along with related publications. Featured objects include his Akari light sculptures, handmade in Gifu, Japan. Beginning in the early 1950s and continuing through next three decades, Isamu Noguchi designed around 200 different shapes of these modular lanterns, which are still in production by the same family business. The Shop also carries the iconic Isamu Noguchi Table, manufactured by Herman Miller, and other reissued furniture designs by Noguchi. The Shop also specializes in collectible and handmade design by artists and designers whose work embodies Noguchi's legacy of craft and form. The Noguchi Museum Shop is curated by Evan Aptaker Scott, Manager of Retail and Merchandising. noguchi.org/shop

ABOUT THE NOGUCHI MUSEUM

Founded in 1985 by category-defying artist Isamu Noguchi (1904–1988), The Isamu Noguchi Garden Museum (now known as The Noguchi Museum), was the first museum in the United States to be established, designed, and installed by a living artist to show their own work. Located in Long Island City, Queens, the Museum itself is widely viewed as among the artist's greatest achievements. Holding the world's largest collection of Noguchi's works, it features open air and indoor galleries in a repurposed 1920s industrial building and a serene outdoor sculpture garden. Accompanying the permanent installations placed by Noguchi, the Museum presents temporary exhibitions exploring themes in Noguchi's work, his milieu and collaborators, and his enduring influence today among contemporary practitioners across disciplines. It exhibits a comprehensive selection of Noguchi's material culture, from sculpture, models, and drawings to his personal possessions, and manages the artist's archives and catalog raisonné. Through its rich collection, exhibitions, and programming, the Museum facilitates scholarship and learning for audiences of all ages and backgrounds. noguchi.org | [@noguchimuseum](https://www.instagram.com/noguchimuseum)

###