**Hatto (Lecture Hall): Ceiling Painting**

The traditional-style ink wash painting (*sumi-e*) on the ceiling was completed in 2003 to commemorate Kenchoji Temple’s 750th anniversary. It was created by renowned painter and ceramicist Koizumi Junsaku (1924–2012). He is known for paintings of dragons, such as the one on the ceiling of Kenninji Temple in Kyoto known as *Soryu-zu*.

The painting at Kenchoji depicts the mythical Unryu, a cloud dragon that brings rain. The rain is a reference to the sermons from the temple’s abbot once given in the Hatto. Wisdom is said to fall like rain from above, although following that wisdom may be as difficult as catching raindrops.

The black and white color scheme of the image contrasts sharply with the colorful banners in the hall, and the dragon’s fierce expression instantly commands attention. The dragon’s eyes appear to be looking directly at you, no matter where you are in the room.