

### **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), known for his painting of a dragon on the ceiling of Kenninji Temple in Kyoto.

This painting depicts the mythical Unryu, a cloud dragon that brings rain. The rain is a reference to sermons given here by the abbot. Wisdom is said to fall like raindrops from above, although attaining that wisdom may be as difficult as catching raindrops.

As you move throughout the hall, notice that the dragon's eyes appear to be looking directly at you, no matter where you are.