



ABOUT THE COVER

Computer graphics and the floating world

The pictures on our cover and on this page are computer-generated images of woodcut prints made by Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849), one of Japan's most famous *ukiyo-e* artists of the Tokugawa Shogun era (named for the military regime that ruled Japan from 1615 to 1868).

The term *ukiyo-e* literally means "pictures of the floating world"—that is, the transient or evanescent world—and is particularly associated with woodblock prints depicting everyday life and popular entertainments and pleasures. Hokusai's work—70 years' worth—was wide-ranging in subject and style, but he is best known for his series of landscapes, *Thirty-Six Views of Mt. Fuji*.

One of them, our cover image, is called *Kanagawa-Oki Nami-Ura*, or "Stormy Sea off Kanagawa," and features boats being tossed on raging waves with Mt. Fuji in the background. At top right is *Sanka Haku-u*, known in English as "Mt. Fuji Above Lightning." Below it is *Aka Fuji*, literally "The Red Mt. Fuji," often known as "Mt. Fuji on a Fine Day with Breeze."

These images were generated under the direction of Guest Editor Toshiyasu L. Kunii by the following members of the Kunii Laboratory of Computer Science at the University of Tokyo: Naota Inamoto, Tsukasa Noma, Naohiro Oshima, Yukari Shirota, and Kazunori Yamaguchi.

The equipment used was provided by the Software Research Laboratory of Ricoh Co., Ltd., and consists of a Seillac-3 graphics system, a Vax 780/750 computer running Unix (UCB 4.1 bsd version), and a Summagraphics digitizing tablet. All programs are written in C language. ■

