



SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA EDUCATION

JUN KANEKO (*Production Designer*) is making his San Francisco Opera debut with the summer 2012 production of *The Magic Flute*. Born in Nagoya, Japan, Jun Kaneko studied painting there with Satoshi Ogawa during his adolescence. He came to the United States in 1963 to continue his studies at the Chouinard Institute of Art when his introduction to Fred Marer drew him to sculptural ceramics. He studied ceramics with Peter Voukos, Paul Soldner, and Jerry Rothman in California during the time now defined as the Contemporary Ceramics Movement in America. The following decade, Kaneko taught at some of the nation's leading art schools, including Scripps College, Rhode Island School of Design, and Cranbrook Academy of Art. His ceramic, bronze, and glass sculptural work and two-dimensional artwork appears in numerous international solo and group exhibitions annually and is included in approximately fifty museum collections. He has realized almost thirty public art commissions in the United States and Japan, and he has been honored with national, state, and organization fellowships and an honorary doctorate from the Royal College of Art in London. Kaneko established his current studio in Omaha, Nebraska in 1990 but has worked at several experimental studios as well, including European Ceramic Work Center in The Netherlands, Otsuka Omi Ceramic Company in Japan, The Fabric Workshop in Philadelphia, Bullseye Glass Factory in Portland, Oregon, Acadia Summer Arts Program in Bar Harbor, Maine, and Aguacate in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. The artist's first opera production was *Madama Butterfly*, which he created in 2007 for Opera Omaha.. The production was firmly rooted in the traditions of Puccini's work, while bringing his signature bold, contemporary style to the piece. Upon its premiere it garnered rave reviews, and the production has toured the country. Kaneko was commissioned by Opera Company of Philadelphia to design a production of *Fidelio*, which received its premiere in 2008.