



## NEWLY ISSUED POSTAGE STAMPS



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



(5)

### International Exchanges and Friendship

Name	International Exchanges and Friendship	
Denomination	80 yen	
Design	(1) Let's talk	(2) Glad to have met you
	(3) With my feelings	(4) My favorite dog and bear
	(5) Everyone is a friend	
Date of issue	March 1, 2006 (Wednesday)	
Sheet composition	Sheets of 10 (5 × 2)	
Size of impression	35.5 mm × 25.0 mm	
Size of stamp	38.5 mm × 28.05 mm	
Size of sheet	222.5 mm × 84.15 mm	
Printing process	6-color photogravure	
Original painters	(1) Hiroswawa Yo	(2) Ogasawara Maki
	(3) Mori Kiyotaka	(4) Kobayashi Ryota
	(5) Takanami Suzuka	
Layout	Kaifuchi Junko (Stamp Designer)	

## Design

The stamp designs are taken from paintings that won a special award at “Stamp Design Contest” held in 2005.

### (1) Let's talk/Hirosawa Yo

Rather than advocating “let's be friendly,” the warm atmosphere of people in harmony is conveyed. This warmth is depicted through vivid colors; but more than this, the telescopic feeling of this painting creates a soft, rounded atmosphere. This painting is enveloped by a gentle expression.

<Evaluation: Matsunaga Mari (Outside Director of Bandai Co., Ltd.)>

### (2) “Glad to have met you”/Ogasawara Maki

Like today's children, unconsciously I uttered “how cute!”

This painting, which seems to depict a happy parent and a child or perhaps friendly babies, expresses many important elements, in addition to being simply cute.

A craft-like touch that reminds viewers of children's songs and folklore of gentle Japanese traditions is used. In addition, a modern heart pattern is drawn on the babies' clothes. Kissing on the cheek is simply an everyday greeting in France, but in Japan, where outward emotional expressions are rare, this could be a modern idea. While integrating tradition and modernity, the most wonderful element in this painting is the expression of affection. The position of the two babies' hands and their eyes evoke a sense of gentleness. These elements are the same around the world, today and in the past.

If many love letters are exchanged using this wonderful stamp, I think world peace will be not simply a dream.

<Evaluation: Françoise Mor'échand (fashion essayist)>

### (3) With my feelings/Mori Kiyotaka

This painting is very simple, but it has significant meaning for me.

Japan, a civilized, densely populated island country, is the home to two types of bears. One is the Japanese black bear on Honshu, and the other is the brown bear found in Hokkaido. Bears sit at the top of the eco system, and their forest habitat represents eco diversity. However, the number of bears continues to decrease each year.

In addition, salmon is the symbol of healthy mountain, river and coastal waters. Up to the beginning of the Showa Period, rivers from Hokkaido to Kyushu saw the return of innumerable salmon to lay their eggs.

Extinction is a now concern for polar bears living in northern regions, particularly with the polar ice cap melting due to global warming and chemical substances discharged into the environment from our everyday activities.

If Japan can stop the destruction of nature, and if salmon can return to all rivers in Japan, I believe that nature in northern regions will surely revive.

Such a significant message can be read in this painting.

<Evaluation: C. W. Nicole (writer)>

### (4) My favorite dog and bear/Kobayashi Ryota

Sometimes “liking each other” means simply being together, and this type of gentleness is conveyed from this painting.

This painting will encourage people to write letters, probably because of the many different words that can be imagined from its pattern.

<Evaluation: Akimoto Yasushi (lyricist)>

### (5) “Everyone is a friend”/Takanami Suzuka

To the full extent within a small stamp frame, the painter's strong feeling about world peace is colorfully depicted. Society today has progressed so far that we can even travel by rocket. But behind this progress, terrorism, disputes, and environmental destruction occur every day. Hoping to lead the world without war and with people living hand in hand.

This painting represents the ideal image of the earth. This is an excellent painting with the best balance of elements such as structure, color, and message.

<Evaluation: Mayuzumi Madoka (poet)>

## HOW TO ORDER JAPANESE STAMPS

Japanese postage stamps are available by mail order at face value plus return postage. For more information on the mail order, please write to the Philatelic Section, Tokyo Central Post Office at the following address:

C.P.O. Box 888, Tokyo 100-8799, Japan