"Rotating snakes" (p.1,4) has been very popular ever since I put it up on my website in the Ritsumeikan University in September, 2003. This work has been mentioned most frequently among my fellow researchers, e-mails have kept coming from fans all over the world, and the requests for its commercial use are the greatest in number among all of my illusion designs. Here I would like to tell the story on how "Rotating snakes" was born.

The 11th year of Heisei era (1999) was the year of rabbit in the Chinese astrological calendar and I was trying to come up with a New Year’s greeting card design using rabbits. Back then I was studying the spiral illusion, an illusion that concentric circles appear to be spiral. So I created a spiral illusion design using a pattern of rabbits named "U-zu." "U" means a rabbit, "zu" indicates an image, and "uzu" means spiral.

Actually I did not realize the illusory rotation in this image until my first book "Trick Eyes" was published in December 2002. I immediately started working on it again and finally created a new image "Rabbits' spirals" (p.60) in January 2003, where several disks appear to rotate spontaneously. This image is included in my 2nd book "Trick Eyes 2" published in June 2003.

"Rabbits' spiral" started becoming popular with great responses like never before. But I was not so satisfied with it because aesthetically I did not think it was the best. I believed I could do better and create a new image with a dramatically increased magnitude of illusion.