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| **Kitawaki, Noboru (北脇昇展) (4 June 1901 – 18 December 1951)** |
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| Noboru Kitawaki was among the most inventive artists linked to inter-war Surrealism in Japan, and an acquaintance of its keenest apologist, Shūzō Takiguchi. He trained in Kyoto under Seifū Tsuda, and first showed his work with the Nika Society before promoting avant-gardism through initiatives such as the Art and Culture Society, founded in 1939. A number of pictures from the end of the 1930s indicate his turn away from Academic Realism toward Surrealism, as well as a melancholic withdrawal from an increasingly nationalistic and militarized culture into a mental existence. *Perishing in the Sky* (1937) is one of many pictures with objects suspended in mental landscapes. Here, the flitting maple leaf seeds, cloud formations, and a sinister shadow are cast against a dark blue ground. Around this time, Kitawaki experimented with automatism, collage, and decalcomania, and in 1941 completed his better-known series of diagrammatic paintings called *Analysis of Chinese Divination of the Chou Period*. These used geometric shapes, tables, and symbols on blank grounds, for the purpose of working through ideas from Zen, Kantian philosophy, and the I Ching, in addition to mathematics and the life sciences, which Kitawaki was also exploring in a number of theoretical essays. |
| Further reading:  (Matsumoto)  (Nakamura) |