Artist Resources – MURAKAMI TAKASHI 村上隆 (Japanese, b. 1962)

Murakami at Gagosian Murakami at Perrotin Murakami at Kaikai Kiki

In 2007, *©MURAKAMI* was organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles as the first comprehensive retrospective to encompass Murakami's works from the early 1990s until the early 2000s. The exhibition traveled to the Brooklyn Museum and the Guggenheim Bilbao.

Murakami took over the Palace of Versailles in 2010. See a photo series of the installation in The Guardian.

The Mori Art Museum installed *MURAKAMI TAKASHI: THE 500 ARHATS* in 2015, which was the Japanese premier of this epic, 100-meter-long painting by the artist.

Takashi Murakami: The Deep End of the Universe was on display at the Buffalo AKG Art Museum in 2017, featuring a series of paintings totaling over 150 feet in length.



Murakami, 2019 Photograph: RK

In 2017, The MFA Boston launched *Takashi Murakami: Lineage of Eccentrics, a Collaboration with Nobuo Tsuji and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston*. The project and exhibition created a dialogue between Murakami and the famed art historian, Nobuo Tsuji, who put Murakami's work in conversation with Japanese masterpieces from the MFA's collection. Read a review in the Boston Globe calling it: "Fun, fun, fun."



Murakami in San Francisco, 2023
Photograph: Eric Martinez

Takashi Murakami: Under the Radiation Falls was installed at the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art in Moscow in 2017, the first major survey of Murakami's work in Russia. Read an "in the studio" profile in Wallpaper Magazine published before the exhibition's opening.

The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago organized *Takashi Murakami: The Octopus Eats Its Own Leg* in 2017, which later traveled to the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth and the Vancouver Art Gallery.

In 2019, *MURAKAMI vs MURAKAMI* was installed at Tai Kwun Contemporary in Hong Kong, a major survey exhibition featuring over 60 paintings and sculptures.

The Broad Museum launched *Takashi Murakami: Stepping on the Tail of a Rainbow* in 2022. Read an article published in The Art Newspaper about the artist's engagement with Augmented Reality for the exhibition and a review in TimeOut.

Takashi Murakami: Monsterized was installed at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco in 2023. Read articles in Wallpaper Magazine, Secret San Francisco, and SF Gate about the major exhibition.



MURAKAMI Takashi 村上隆(Japanese, b. 1962)
Kitagawa Utamaro's "Parody of an Imperial Carriage Scene" Cherry Blossoms Dancing in the Air – SUPERFLAT, 2025-2026
Acrylic, gold leaf, and platinum leave on canvas mounted on aluminum frame

Private Collection; L2026:61.1

Takashi Murakami began his career by studying *nihonga* (traditional Japanese-style painting) at Tokyo University of the Arts. In the early 1990s, he started incorporating subcultures of *anime* and *manga* into his work, developing his iconic style of SUPERFLAT that merges early modern perspective techniques with contemporary pop culture. **Kitagawa Utamaro's "Parody of an Imperial Carriage Scene" Cherry Blossoms Dancing in the Air – SUPERFLAT** is part of a recent series that recreates Edo Period woodblock prints of *bijin-ga* (pictures of beautiful women) as large-scale paintings. Although Murakami interprets the iconic work with his own materials, his process of meticulous copying reveals Utamaro's precision and sensual artistry that first made these works popular.

On view September 30, 2026 – January 24, 2027

MURAKAMI Takashi 村上隆(Japanese, b. 1962)
Homage to Francis Bacon (RED + BLACK Triptych), 2018
Acrylic, gold leaf and platinum leaf on canvas mounted on aluminum frame

Private Collection; L2023:97.1a-c

Takashi Murakami is one of today's most influential contemporary artists. Known for his playful work that blurs the line between commercial and fine art, Murakami's flowers, monsters, and other whimsical creatures have become emblems of postwar Japanese art and culture. Though the artist often engages with the legacies of Japanese art history, **Homage to Francis Bacon (RED + BLACK Triptych)** pays tribute to the Irish-born British figurative painter Francis Bacon (1909-1992). The format recreates Bacon's iconic triptychs, such as *Three Studies for Figures at the Base of a Crucifixion* (1944), using Murakami's psychedelic colors and otherworldly figures. The artist first began recreating Bacon's compositions in 2003 and continues to admire and engage with Bacon's intense depictions of the human form.

On view January 24 – April 28, 2024





Francis Bacon
Three Studies for Figures at the Base of a Crucifixion, 1944
Oil and pastel on board
Tate Britain