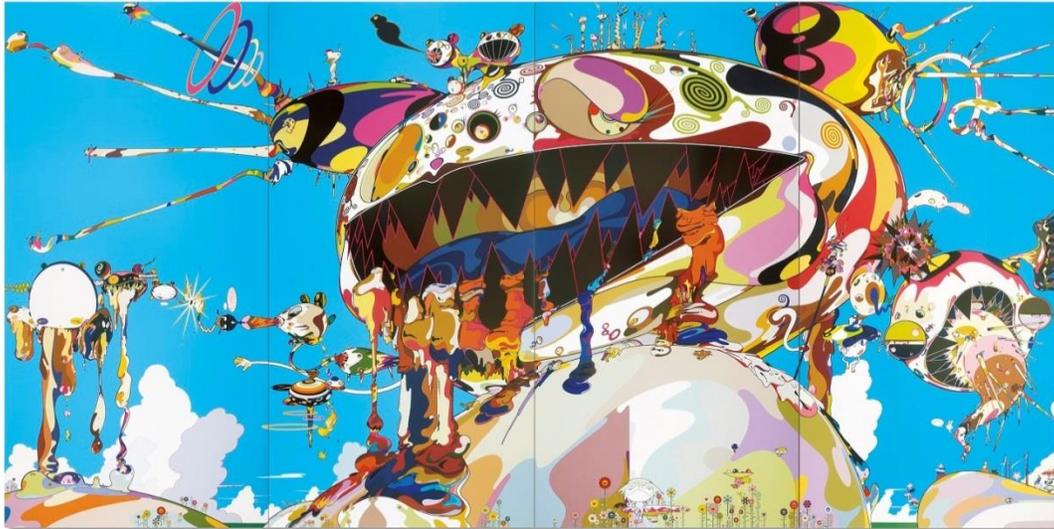


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Fifty-five works. Three decades. One visionary.

**The Vancouver Art Gallery presents
Takashi Murakami's first-ever retrospective in Canada**



February 3 – May 6, 2018

November 7, 2017, Vancouver, BC – The Vancouver Art Gallery is excited to announce *Takashi Murakami: The Octopus Eats Its Own Leg*, the first-ever retrospective of international art icon Takashi Murakami to be presented in Canada.

Featuring fifty-five remarkable works, some newly created for the presentation in Vancouver, *Takashi Murakami: The Octopus Eats Its Own Leg* offers a critical and serious meditation on the current state of Japanese society in the midst of a complex, global world, while highlighting Murakami's important role as a committed and often conflicted commentator on cultural production.

"We are thrilled to offer Canadian audiences the opportunity to experience a wide range of paintings and sculptures by one of the world's most influential and visionary artists," says Kathleen S. Bartels, Director of the Vancouver Art Gallery. "In tracing Takashi Murakami's development as an artist over the course of three decades, *The Octopus Eats Its Own Leg* draws attention to some of the major themes and cultural conditions that have shaped his artistic practice. We can't wait to welcome visitors to this monumental exhibition."

Takashi Murakami: The Octopus Eats Its Own Leg will survey the artist's paintings from his earliest mature work to his recent large-scale projects, including a newly created five metre-tall sculpture as well as two multi-panel paintings created specially for the Vancouver Art Gallery exhibition. This wide-ranging exhibition will explore several key topics, including the influence of traditional Japanese painting and Buddhist folklore on Murakami's art; his careful attention to craft and materials; and his

engagement with issues affecting Japan and the larger world today, such as media culture, globalization and the threats of nuclear power.

Takashi Murakami: The Octopus Eats Its Own Leg is organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago and is curated by MCA Chief Curator Michael Darling.

About Takashi Murakami

Born 1962 in Tokyo, **Takashi Murakami** earned a Ph.D. in Nihonga from Tokyo University of the Arts School of Fine Arts. He is the founder and representative of Kaikai Kiki, an art production and management company. The objectives of Kaikai Kiki are creating Murakami's works, managing the careers of represented artists, running a gallery business, producing films and devising strategic branding plans via collaborations, among others. Murakami is well known for his corporate branding projects with Louis Vuitton, VANS, shu uemura, Issey Miyake, Lucien Pellat-Finet, Roppongi Hills, and ComplexCon, as well as collaborations with musicians such as Kanye West and Pharrell Williams. More recently, he has been working on film and animation productions, and released his first live-action feature film *Jellyfish Eyes* in 2013. He is currently working on the sequel of *Jellyfish Eyes* as well as an animated television series, *6HP (Six Hearts Princess)*. In 2008, he was selected as one of *TIME* magazine's "The 100 Most Influential People." Since 2003, he has been included in the Power 100 of *ArtReview* for ten years straight and was ranked as 7th in 2003. He has also been engaged in a wide range of artistic undertakings such as curating shows and collecting art and other curiosities for his personal collection. Between 2002 and 2014, he regularly organized "GEISAI," a project intended to discover and nurture young artists from Japan and Taiwan. In all, approximately 20,000 artists participated in these projects. In response to the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake, he founded "newday," a charity organization that carries out activities every year to help Japan recover from natural disasters.

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Image:

Takashi Murakami, *Tan Tan Bo Puking - a.k.a. Gero Tan*, 2002, acrylic on canvas mounted on board, Private Collection, Courtesy of Galerie Perrotin, © 2002 Takashi Murakami/Kaikai Kiki Co., Ltd. All Rights Reserved. Photo: Adam Reich

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MEDIA CONTACT

Justin Mah, Communications Specialist

jmah@vanartgallery.bc.ca, Direct: 604-662-4722

About the Vancouver Art Gallery

Founded in 1931, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of North America's most respected and innovative visual arts institutions. The Gallery's ground-breaking exhibitions, extensive public programs and emphasis on advancing scholarship all focus on the historical and contemporary art of British Columbia and international centres, with special attention to the accomplishments of

Indigenous artists and the art of the Asia Pacific region—through the Institute of Asian Art founded in 2014. The Gallery's programs also explore the impacts of images in the larger sphere of visual culture, design and architecture. www.vanartgallery.bc.ca

The Vancouver Art Gallery is a not-for-profit organization supported by its members, individual donors, corporate funders, foundations, the City of Vancouver, the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council, and the Canada Council for the Arts.