



### TAKASHI MURAKAMI AT THE CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES

#### **EXHIBITION**

From the 14th of September to the 12th of December 2010

#### PRESS CONTACT OPUS 64

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#### JEAN-JACQUES AILLAGON

Versailles has always brought together the greatest creative artists. Louis XIV brought Louis Le Vau, Jules Hardouin-Mansart, Robert de Cotte, Charles Le Brun, André Le Nôtre, Jean-Baptiste Lully, Michel-Richard de Lalande, Molière, Carlo Vigarini, François Francine and Gianlorenzo Bernini, who created great works here. Subsequent rulers invited Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne, Jean-Marc Nattier, Jean-Henri Riesener, Richard Mique, Jacques-Ange Gabriel, Hubert Robert, André Ernest Modeste Grétry and many others. Louis Philippe, who established the Musée de l'Histoire de France (Museum of the History of France) at Versailles, made use of the most illustrious artists of his era. We owe some of the masterpieces of the Galerie des Batailles and the Salles des Croisades, to such artists as Eugène Delacroix, Horace Vernet and Louis-Ernest Meissonnier.

It is in keeping with this spirit of openness to creativity that the Etablissement Public du Musée et du Domaine national de Versailles now wants to allow great artists of our own era to work at the locations under its care.

Following the international success of the exhibition *Jeff Koons Versailles* in 2008, and the remarkable creation of site-specific works by Veilhan in 2009, it is now the turn of Takashi Murakami who is invited this year to present his work at Versailles. By creating new works for this occasion, which will be added to existing ones from his repertoire, he will continue Versailles' long tradition of openness to creativity.

Murakami is one of the most celebrated artists of our time. The combination of his fame with that of the Château of Versailles will show the degree to which, despite the centuries that separate them, the masters of the past are able to enter into dialogue with those of the present, and vice versa. Murakami's talent has created new imagery, drawing on both the resources of the tradition of his country, from the Japanese cartoons known as manga, but also pop culture. His virtuosity, his familiarity with precious materials and his sense of the mediating role of art, find, within the vast "machine" of creation, innovation and communication which is Versailles, a fascinating echo.

Jean-Jacques Aillagon

President of Château de Versailles Spectacles President of the Établissement public du musée et du domaine national de Versailles



#### LAURENT LE BON

Murakami-Versailles is an exceptional occasion which sees the Château of Versailles reconnect with the artists of its day through the medium of a walk allowing you to (re)discover the known and unknown spaces of the estate. If there is a place where risks must be taken to create a true expression of our era and not an imitation, which is often easy to do, it is Versailles. Contemporary artistic creation allows another perception of this living, ever-changing monument. It is not a fixed model of one single era, it is difficult to define, but, like every element of our heritage, the fruit of a complex amalgamation of expressions and interventions. contemporary ones included. Artistic creation contributes a little to breaking the clichés surrounding this location which materialise in the uses of the spaces, which are sometimes conventional and narrow. By revealing its complexity, its substance, its different layers which have been buried under habit, it is a question of offering new points of view of a site which everyone believes they already know.

Murakami-Versailles is a walk, a trail through the "landscape area" of Versailles. For his first major retrospective in France, in the 15 rooms of the Château and in the gardens, the artist presents 22 major works, , of which 11 have been created exclusively for this exhibition. The general public will be able to view and admire his creations, which are often technical masterpieces. The allegories and other myths of Versailles thus carry on a dialogue with the dreamlike creatures of Takashi Murakami, sometimes inspired by traditional Japanese art. "I seek to produce a creative process which is a bridge between the past and the future" he likes to remind us.

The temporary installation of the works of one of the best-known artists on the contemporary scene, at one of the most visited monuments in the world is a surprising 'story within a story'. It is the question of the in situ which underlies this proposition. Numerous cultural institutions

have attempted 'clashes' in recent years between historical heritage and contemporary work. The radicality of this exhibition seems different to us, as much through the chosen location as through the structure of the journey.

Echo, dialectic, opposition, counterpoint ... it is not our role to decide. This unique experience seeks above all to spark a reflection on the contemporary nature of our monuments and the indispensable need to create our own era. Notre Dame, Les Invalides, the Panthéon, the Louvre, Versailles, to name but a few of the best-known, contemporary in their time, are genuinely multilayered with numerous interventions, beside which *Murakami-Versailles* is on a more modest scale. And yet on each occasion there are the same objectives: never to minimise the singular character of every artistic gesture and never to turn the pure imagination of the creator into heritage.

Some principles which have guided us for this unique three months experience: avoid the trap of contemporary art "integrated" with the historical monument; (re)discover a space; rejoice about working with a living artist and the resulting emotions, failures and surprises; give pleasure. Trust one of the best artists of our time to reveal another Versailles, a Versailles of today, a living monument from the perspective of its utility value; this is the intention of this event. Through sensual pleasures, the walk, a new labyrinth of Versailles, has the purpose of both distracting and entertaining the walker, beyond the clichés.

This is an ephemeral extravagance, a risk to be taken. Versailles, formerly a "field of experiments and a multidisciplinary laboratory" for the most audacious creations, notably during parties, deserves this contemporary artistic expression.

Laurent Le Bon
Curator of the exhibition
Director of the Centre Pompidou-Metz



#### TAKASHI MURAKAMI

"For Japanese, myself included, the Château de Versailles is one of the great symbols in Western history. It is emblematic of an elegance, sophistication, and artistic ambition that most of us could only dream of.

We understand, of course, that the fuse that sparked the fires of revolution led right through the center of the building.

But in many ways, it all comes across as a fantastic tale from a kingdom far, far away. Just as the people of France might find it difficult to recreate in their minds an accurate image of the age of the Samurai, so too does the story of the palace become one that is, for us, diluted of reality.

Thus, it is likely that the Versailles of my imagination is one that my mind has exaggerated and transformed until it has become a kind of surreal world of its own.

It is this that I have tried to capture in this exhibition.

I am The Cheshire Cat who greets Alice in Wonderland with his devilish grin, and chatters on as she wanders around the Château.

With my playful smile, I invite you all to the Wonderland of Versailles."

Takashi Murakami



#### **BIOGRAPHY OF TAKASHI MURAKAMI**

With a PhD in Nihonga painting from the Tokyo University of the Arts, Takashi Murakami has developed a signature style where the most modern techniques combine with the skill and precision of traditional Japanese art, particularly ukiyo-e (floating world) prints. Inspired by manga and kawaii (cute) culture, his irresistible world is inhabited by monstrous or charming characters, the mischievous descendents of past myths.

In 2001, Murakami established the Kaikai Kiki Co., Ltd. based in Tokyo and New York, and now also in Los Angeles, a veritable breeding ground for artists that produces exhibitions, animated films, events such as the GEISAI contemporary art fair, as well as catalogues and merchandise goods.

The 'Superflat' aesthetic that Murakami theorized in 2000 attempts to blur the line between high and low art through all mediums including painting, sculpture, wallpaper, animation, fashion, and merchandise.

Since his first monographic exhibition outside Japan in 1995 at Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin, Murakami has become recognized as one of the most prominent contemporary artists of his time, and his work has been featured in numerous solo exhibitions at museums and art institutions throughout the world, including *The Meaning of the Nonsense of the Meaning* in New York at the Center for Curatorial Studies Museum, Bard College in 1999, P.S.1 in Long Island City, NY (2000), Grand Central Station in 2001, the Fondation Cartier and the Serpentine Gallery in 2002, the Rockefeller Center in 2003, and recently in the traveling retrospective ©MURAKAMI, shown

first at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles in 2007, then followed by shows at the Brooklyn Museum in New York, the Museum für Moderne Kunst (MMK) in Frankfurt, and the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao.

As a curator, Murakami challenges accepted notions of history and culture. With his three-part *Superflat* exhibition, which toured in major museums in America and Europe, he attempted to introduce Japanese artists, animators, cartoonists, etc., to an international audience, under the premise that such categories of creativity are not as rigid in the Japanese system and might all be thought of as "art." In 2005, the exhibition's final installation, *Little Boy*, suggested a new interpretation of history through a political exposition of the A-bomb and postwar Japanese popular culture.

He became known to the general public when fashion designer Marc Jacobs first asked him to reinterpret the Louis Vuitton monogram for their Spring/Summer 2003 line. And thus the collaboration began, as well as through his two animated films, SUPERFLAT MONOGRAM (2003) and SUPERFLAT First Love (2009), where Murakami's characters are immersed in a psychedelic, multicoloured, Vuitton universe.

In 2008, Time magazine named him as one of the 100 most influential personalities in the world.

Takashi Murakami was born in 1962 in Tokyo, Japan. He lives and works in Tokyo, New York, and Los Angeles.



Exhibition of 22 artworks (or group artworks), with 11 artworks especially created for the exhibition. Among them: 7 sculptures (one is exposed outside), 1 animation, 1 painting, 1 carpet, and a collection of lamps.

#### MAIN ARTWORKS EXHIBITED

#### In The King's Grand Apartment

The Hercule Salon: *Tongari-Kun* 2003-2004 - Fiberglass, iron, synthetic resin, oil paint

and acrylic 22.96 x 11.48 feet 700 x 350 cm

The Abundance Salon: Oval Buddha Silver

2008 - Sterling Silver 4.47 x 2.64 x 2.55 feet 136.5 x 80.5 x 78 cm

The Hall of Mirrors: Flower Matango (d) 2001-2006 - Fiberglass, iron, oil paint and acrylic 10.33 x 6.7 x 8.63 feet 315 x 204.7 x 263 cm

#### In the Garden

The Water Parterre : *Oval Buddha* 2007-2010 - Bronze and gold leaf 18.6 x 10,21 x 10.46 feet 568 x 312 x 319 cm

#### THE EXHIBITION

Press Opening 9 September Opening 13 September Exhibition 14 September - 12 December

4 lenders included the artist who loans 18 artworks



#### **EXHIBITED ARTWORKS**

The Hercules Salon **Tongari-Kun** 2003 - 2004 Fiberglass, iron, synthetic resin, oil paint and acrylic Private collection

The Abundance Salon **Oval Buddha Silver** 2008 *Sterling Silver* Artist collection

The Venus Salon Kaikai & Kiki 2000 - 2005 Fiberglass, iron, synthetic resin, oil paint and acrylic Artist collection

The Diana Salon

Pom & Me 2009 - 2010

Carbon fiber and acrylic

Private collection

The Mars Salon Jellyfish Eyes - Saki, Tatsuya, Max and Shimon 2004 Fiberglass reinforced plastic, steel and lacquer Artist collection

The Mercury Salon **Kinoko Isu (medium and large)** 2003 *Fiberglass reinforced plastic, steel and urethane paint* Artist collection

The Apollo Salon

Yume Lion (The Dream Lion) 2009 - 2010

Aluminium and gold leaf

Artist collection

The Salon of War **Miss Ko**<sup>2</sup> 1997 Fiberglass, iron, synthetic resin, oil paint and acrylic Artist collection

The Hall of Mirrors
Flower Matango 2001 - 2006
Fiberglass, iron, oil paint and acrylic
Artist collection

The Salon of Peace
Superflat Flowers 2010
Fiberglass reinforced plastic, carbon fiber, steel and acrylic
Artist collection

The Peers' Salon
The Simple Things 2008 - 2009
Takashi Murakami, Pharell Williams
Fiberglass, steel, acrylic, wood, LED, gold (white, yellow, and pink)
set with rubies, sapphires, emeralds and diamonds
Collection Adriana Abascal & Cathy Vedovi-Odermatt

The Queen's Guards Room J 2010 Aluminium and gold leaf Artist collection

The Coronation Room
The Emperor's New Clothes 2005
Fiberglass, resin, iron, wood, fabrics, oil paint, acrylic and lacquer
Artist collection

The King's Guards Room Flower Lamps (Red and Multi-color) 2010 Stained glass, lead, electrical components Artist collection

The King's Guards Room Six ♥ Princess 2010 Animation 3'30 Artist collection

The King's Guards Room Kawaï - Vacances Summer Vacation in the Kingdom of the Golden 2008 Acrylic and gold leaf on canvas Private collection

The King's Guards Room Untitled (Carpet) 2010 Printed polyamid carpet

Logia of the Queen's Staircase Open Your Hands Wide 2010 Acrylic, gold leaf and platinum leaf on canvas Collection de l'artiste

Logia of the Queen's Staircase Untitled (Wallpaper) 2010 Wallpaper Artist collection

Water Parterre
Oval Buddha 2007 - 2010
Bronze and gold leaf
Artist collection



#### PATRONAGE OF THE EXHIBITION

Château de Versailles Spectacles would like to thank Qatar Museums Authority.



Qatar Museums Authority in association with Doha Cultural Capital 2010

Exhibition presented by the Établissement public du musée et du domaine national de Versailles with Qatar Museums Authority, in association with « Doha Capitale Culturelle 2010 ». After Versailles, an exhibition by Takashi Murakami will take place in Doha.

# MURAKAMI

#### PARTNERS OF THE EXHIBITION

















### GALERIE EMMANUEL PERROTIN

Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin is pleased to support and participate in the exhibition Murakami Versailles.

Since 1993, Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin has collaborated with **Takashi Murakami** on a number of shows, including his first solo exhibition outside of Japan in 1995. Since then, Murakami has presented six monographic exhibitions at Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin (in 2009, *Takashi Murakami Paints Self-Portraits*, which marked the first series of self-portraits by the artist).

The Gallery has supported the majority of his shows throughout his career, such as *Coloriage* at the Cartier Foundation (2002) and the retrospective ©*MURAKAMI* at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles (2007-2008), the Brooklyn Museum in New York (2008), the Museum fur Modern Kunst in Frankfurt (2008) and at the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao (2009).

**Founded in 1990**, the Gallery has opened ten different exhibition areas over the past 20 years, with the aim of continuing to offer increasingly stimulating environments to its artists. In February 2005, Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin opened premises at **76 rue de Turenne** and, in 2007, at **10 impasse Saint-Claude**, in the heart of the Marais district. In September of 2010, a new space will open on the upper floor of 76 rue de Turenne offering a total of 1500 sq m of exhibition space.

The work of the artists represented by Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin covers every facet of art today, with a roll call including Chiho Aoshima, Daniel Arsham, Hernan Bas, Sophie Calle, Maurizio Cattelan, Peter Coffin, Johan Creten, Matthew Day Jackson, Wim Delvoye, Elmgreen & Dragset, Lionel Estève, Daniel Firman, Bernard Frize, Gelitin, Duane Hanson, Jesper Just, Bharti Kher, Kolkoz, Klara Kristalova, Guy Limone, Jin Meyerson, Mariko Mori, Farhad Moshiri, Mr., Takashi Murakami, Jean-Michel Othoniel, Paola Pivi, Michael Sailstorfer, Aya Takano, Tatiana Trouvé, Piotr Uklanski, Xavier Veilhan, and Peter Zimmermann.

Thanks to faithful relationships with its artists, the Gallery has been a springboard for several of their careers. Many of the gallery's artists are now well known internationally, due in part to the gallery's constant involvement in the production of new works. This level of acclaim allows the gallery to continually support the international careers of French artists.

Each year, the gallery participates in a myriad of contemporary art fairs around the world such as those of Basel, Hong Kong, London, Miami, New York, and Paris. In addition to these, the gallery also sometimes participates in more unexpected fairs like the ones in Berlin, Beyrouth, Chicago, Dubaï, Gand, Guadalajara, Los Angeles, Stockholm, Turin, and Yokohama.

Every December, during Art Basel Miami, the gallery unveils three shows in its 1300 sq m of space in Miami. Thanks to the collaboration with Le Baron night club, the art world is able to dance the night away.

The Gallery recently launched a collection of books about its artists. Six books will be published in 2010.

The Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin is presenting a group show from September, 11 to October, 30, 2010 in all the rooms, featuring: John Armleder, Tauba Auerbach, Hernan Bas, Matthew Day Jackson, Bernard Frize, Mark Grotjahn, Andrew Guenther, Sergej Jensen, Bharti Kher, Adam McEwen, Olivier Mosset, Takashi Murakami, R.H. Quaytman, Claude Rutault, Lee Ufan, Piotr Uklanski, Martin Wöhrl.





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Through its numerous programmes, **France Inter** is highly involved in artistic events. Listeners regularly discover artists, events and artworks which France Inter covers.

France Inter starts the new season with the exhibition of Takashi Murakami.

Having covered the work of Jeff Koons and Xavier Veilhan, the Palace of Versailles, also known for its openness to contemporary art, is working with a major Japenese artist, Takashi Murakami, one of today's best-known artists.

The event can be experienced and explored on France Inter. Beyond the airwaves, France Inter is the partner that makes a difference.

An exhibition to discover on France Inter and franceinter.com

#### Press contact

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**20 Minutes** is pleased to be the 2010 partner of Château de Versailles Spectacles for the Murakami exhibition

20 Minutes: information is a right.

Now over 8 years old, 20 Minutes, the leading national daily newspaper, has 2,675,000 readers each day (1). Produced by over 90 journalists, an average of 752,100 copies(2) of the paper are printed each day, in the 10 major French regions: Ile de France, Lille, Lyon, Marseille, Bordeaux, Toulouse, Nantes, Strasbourg, Nice and Grenoble.

20 Minutes also produces over 40 specialist magazines (20' Supp'), which are also distributed across the entire network.

And there's also 20minutes.fr: up to the second. In May, 20minutes.fr had 4,181,000 unique visitors(3). From mobile devices, 20minutes.fr had 3,045,235 visits(4) in March 2010.

The 20minutes.fr editorial team provides you with the latest up-to-the-second news 7 days a week: live coverage of the latest events, constantly updated articles and commentary by readers, videos, interviews, debates, blogs... 20minutes.fr is also available on all mobile phones. "With 20 Minutes, the right to information means making all information accessible. This right is a basic principle of our work as journalists and editors, and a social responsibility we have to everyone. It is because we attempt every day to enforce this right, by providing accurate, organised and impartial information, that we want to publicise our commitment," explains Pierre-Jean Bozo, chairman of 20 Minutes.

20 Minutes, with the daily newspaper, the 20 Minutes ID organisation, the specialist magazines and 20minutes.fr on the web and mobile phones, is a complete service which guarantees access to urban demographics.

#### More information available at

www.20minutes-media.com and www.20minutes.fr

- (1) EPIQ TNS-Sofres 2009 study: readers 15 +
- (2) PV OJD T1 2010
- (3) Médiamétrie NetRatings Home & Work (May 2010)
- (4) Certification OJD Nouveaux Media (March 2010)





Télérama is pleased to support the Murakami exhibition at the Palace of Versailles

Télérama has always sought to render all cultures accessible to the greatest possible number of people. The fine arts are from now on the major part of this work, with two weekly pages.

Not only has our magazine issued, since 1982, many special editions which regularly accompany major exhibitions, but since 1990 the best contemporary artists have provided the covers for the new year:

Pierre Alechinsky, Serge Plagnol, Beng Lindström, Miquel Barcelo, Denis Larget, Gérard Titus-Carmel, Thomas Fougeirol, Gérard Garouste, Manuel Ruis Vida, Yan Pei-Ming, Ronan Barrot, Gérard Traquandi and Anne-Laure Sacriste, up to Marc Desgrandchamps in 2010.

And our radio now offers, via the web, news and reviews dedicated to the visual arts, as does our website www.telerama.fr.

#### Media contact

Anne de Lagarde - 01 55 30 56 98



## Beaux Arts magazine

Beaux Arts magazine has decided to be involved with the Murakami exhibition which will be held at the Palace of Versailles from 14th September to 12th December 2010, and will demonstrate once again the link between heritage and contemporary art.

Beaux Arts will publish a special edition which will include a report on a visit to Murakami's studios in Japan, an exclusive interview with the artist by Fabrice Bousteau, managing editor of Beaux Arts magazine, and notes on the works in the exhibition. Takashi Murakami will also set out his views of the emblematic site of French culture which is the Palace of Versailles.

The special edition will be concluded with an interview with Laurent Le Bon, curator of the exhibition.

Beaux Arts magazine is the leading artistic and cultural publication in France, distributing 61,325 copies (source: OJD, 2009) and with almost 500,000 readers each month. The monthly publication focuses on the visual arts: painting, sculpture, architecture, photography, design, comic books – but also deals with culture across the disciplines.

Producing over 60 works each year, the publishing arm of Beaux Arts is very active. Its recent publications include:

Les plus beaux textes de l'art du XX<sup>e</sup> siècle (The best art texts of the 20th century) Qu'est ce que l'art aujourd'hui ? (What is art today?) Monet, ses maîtres et ses héritiers (Monet, his teachers and his heirs)



#### THE EXHIBITION

Murakami Versailles is organised by the Etablissement Public du Musée et du Domaine national de Versailles and Château de Versailles Spectacles, its executive producer.

#### Jean-Jacques Aillagon

President of the Etablissement Public du Musée et du Domaine national de Versailles and Chairman of Château de Versailles Spectacles

#### Béatrix Saule

General Patrimony Curator Director of the Etablissement

#### **Denis Berthomier**

General Director

#### Laurent Le Bon

**Exhibition Organiser** 

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#### PRACTICAL INFORMATION

#### Press Conference

Thursday 9th of September 2010

#### Exhibition

From the 14th of September to the 12th of December 2010

Entrance to the exhibition from the Court of Honour of the Château of Versailles.

Normal conditions of visit - no added fees:

15€ / Free under 26 years old.

Every day exept monday 9h00 - 18h30

(9h00-17h30 after 1st novembre).

Exhibition included in the tour King's State Apartments.

#### Château de Versailles - Press contact

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# MURAKAMI















