

Takashi Murakami's Huge 10-Meter Golden "Flower Parent and Child" Sculpture Goes on Display at Roppongi Hills

— Radiating Hopes for the Future from "Cultural Heart of Tokyo" amid COVID-19 Pandemic

Tokyo, November 26, 2020 — Mori Building announced today that world-renowned artist Takashi Murakami's huge 10-meter golden sculpture, *Haha Bangla Manus* ("Flower Parent and Child") is now on display at Roppongi Hills' 66 Plaza from November 26. We decided to introduce the Murakami's dazzling golden-leaf work to convey the "energy" and "hopes" for the future from Roppongi Hills, the cultural heart of Tokyo, even when we are faced with under COVID-19.

Additionally, Flower Cafe will operate at the Hills Cafe/Space from November 27 to January 3, 2021 as part of the "ROPPONGI HILLS TAKASHI MURAKAMI PROJECT." Besides, Mr. Murakami is participating in "STARS: Six Contemporary Artists from Japan to the World," an exhibition of works by six leading contemporary artists in Japan, at Mori Art Museum running through January 3, 2021.

About the Artwork

The massive sculpture, measuring 10 meters high, is one of Murakami's largest artworks to date. All sides are decorated with flower motifs projecting diverse expressions of hope depending on the viewing angle.

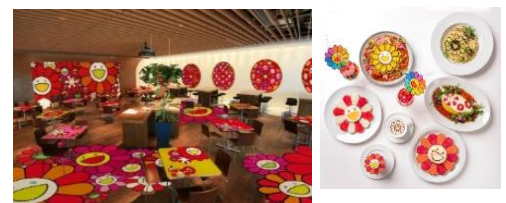
Comments by Takashi Murakami

"I am proud to say that I believe to be the originator of incorporating childish, toy-like logic into the art world, as part of my "Superflat" concept. We are entering an era in which everything can be considered art if it is called art, as the acceptance zone for art has become so gigantic in Asia that its childishness really has no bounds. I've created this work as the heart of such ripples.

When I was creating the sculpture, there was a chance that the project would have to be discontinued and our incorporated effort dissolved, which in fact left me greatly distressed, but eventually the funding continued on and my company did not have to be dissolved. The project has finished well, but at that very moment, it was extremely challenging. Most people mistakenly take it that my character and production sites are cheerful and happy because of the smiling characters that appear in my artworks, but creating this dream has also been an anguishing experience. I hope this sculpture is to be completed safely."



Takashi Murakami *Haha Bangla Manus* 2020
Material: Bronze and gold leaf
Size: 1,000.1cm (H) x 647.1cm (W) x 465.5cm (L)
The Bloodstone Public Collection
Courtesy Gagosian With the cooperation of Kaikai Kiki Co., Ltd. ©2020 Takashi Murakami/Kaikai Kiki Co., Ltd. All Rights Reserved



TAKASHI MURAKAMI PROJECT Flower Cafe



About ROPPONGI HILLS TAKASHI MURAKAMI PROJECT

The project, a dream collaboration between the Roppongi Hills, as “cultural heart of Tokyo” and contemporary artist Takashi Murakami, expresses hope for the future through art. At 66 Plaza, Roppongi Hills, the radiant 10-meter “Flower Parent and Child” artwork will communicate hope for the future to the world. Concurrent collaborations will be organized at Roppongi Hills locations from January 2021, including in a cafe, hotel and commercial venues, helping to enliven the entire Roppongi Hills area.



Period: Thu., Nov. 26, 2020 to end May, 2021 (planned)

Creator: Takashi Murakami

Content: “Flower Parent and Child” in 66 Plaza, and concurrent collaborations at Hills Cafe / Space and other commercial venues within Roppongi Hills.

Profile of Takashi Murakami

Born 1962 in Tokyo, Takashi Murakami’s “Superflat” theory reimagines the sources of traditional Japanese painting and contemporary art through the visual logic of anime and manga. Murakami has created many characters that reflect Japan’s nerdy “otaku” culture, such as Miss Ko² and Mr. DOB. He also produces sculptures with a high kitsch factor and hyper-two-dimensional paintings that represent the polar opposite of Western perspectives. His cultural theories, which are based on Japanese subculture, dismantle hierarchies between high and low brow to offer critical depictions of postwar Japanese psychology. They establish a uniquely Japanese discourse in the context of the globalizing art scene. His collaborations with Louis Vuitton and activities focused on street culture and contemporary ceramics continue to win new audiences worldwide by transcending the domain of contemporary art. The final installment of his “Superflat Trilogy,” the exhibition Little Boy at Japan Society (New York, 2005) curated by Murakami himself, won the Best Thematic Show by AICA-USA (International Association of Art Critics United States). His first retrospective exhibition, ©MURAKAMI (2007-2009), traveled to four cities in Europe and the United States, including the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. Murakami has held solo exhibitions worldwide, including the Palace of Versailles (2010), the Al-Riwaq Exhibition Hall (Doha, 2012), the Mori Art Museum (Tokyo, 2015), the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art (Moscow, 2017) and Tai Kwun Contemporary (Hong Kong, 2019).



Photogenic Flower Cafe to Open for a Limited Time

Roppongi Hills Cafe / Space will take part in the above project by organizing a “Flower Cafe” event where customers can enjoy Takashi Murakami’s unique flower-motif world view. Flower Cafe will serve an impressive menu of creations produced by Murakami, including photogenic offerings such as “Flower Curry,” “Flower Omelet Rice,” and “Flower Pasta,” which customers will be invited to decorate with dried seaweed molded into flower shapes. Also, a photo spot arranged inside the cafe will provide a great location for selfies and commemorative photos. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy Takashi Murakami’s unique flower-motif world view.



Flower Curry Flower Omelet Rice Flower Pasta

Event: Flower Cafe

Period: Fri., Nov. 27, 2020 to Sun., Jan. 3, 2021

Hours: 10am to 10pm daily

Venue: Hills Cafe / Space

<Flower Parent and Child Social Media Posting Campaign (Nov. 27, 2020 to end Jan. 3, 2021) >

Those who take pictures of “Flower Parent and Child” at 66 Plaza and post on social media with the hashtag #TAKASHIMURAKAMIPROJECT will receive a great prize.

1. 500-yen discount on STARS exhibition tickets at the Mori Art Museum!
2. Those who order the flower original food menu at Flower Cafe can get one Flower Drink! (Limited to the first 100 people daily)



Flower Drink



Grand Hyatt Tokyo's Collaboration with Takashi Murakami 'Flower' Sweets

Grand Hyatt Tokyo, the luxury hotel in Roppongi Hills, has currently been offering afternoon tea together with an assortment of flower-motif desserts that depict works by Takashi Murakami. Also, a limited number of Takashi Murakami 'Flower' Afternoon Tea Takeout Box wrapped in a *furoshiki* cloth will be available from Thursday, December 10 to Wednesday, December 23, 2020. Besides, the hotel's Fiorentina Pastry Boutique is offering faithful-reproduced 'Flower' white chocolate cookies and 'Flower' *anpan* rolls filled with sweet red bean paste.

Event: Takashi Murakami Flower Afternoon Tea Take-out Boxes
Period: Thu., Dec. 10, 2020 to Wed., Dec. 23, 2020
Venue: Grand Hyatt Tokyo



Closing soon: Stars Exhibition at Mori Art Museum

Don't miss the exhibition *STARS: Six Contemporary Artists from Japan to the World* at Mori Art Museum, which ends on Sunday, January 3, 2021. The exhibition features early to recent works by six globally recognized contemporary artists in Japan - Yayoi Kusama, Lee Ufan, Tatsuo Miyajima, Yoshitomo Nara and Hiroshi Sugimoto as well as Takashi Murakami. *STARS* explores these artists' pursuit of universal issues, such as transcending nationality and culture, traditions and aesthetics, and technology and subculture, influenced by various social, cultural and economic trends particular to Japan.

Period: Fri., Jul. 31, 2020 to Sun., Jan. 3, 2021
Venue: Mori Art Museum (53F, Roppongi Hills Mori Tower)
Hours: 10:00-22:00 (admission until 21:30), 10:00-17:00 on Tuesdays (admission until 16:30)

- * Open 9:00-22:00 on Dec. 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20 and every day from Dec. 26, 2020 to Jan. 3, 2021
- * Open 10:00-22:00 on Tuesday, December 29, 2020
- * Entry is allowed until 30 min before closing.
- * Open every day during the exhibition period.
- * COVID-19 protocols: Please visit the Museum's website below.

Admission (including tax): Adults 2,000 yen, Students (university/high school) 1,300 yen, Children (age 4 to middle school) 700 yen, and seniors (from age 65) 1,700 yen

- * For reinforcement of countermeasures against COVID-19, special admission discounts are to be applicable to online tickets after Monday, November 30 (Note: only for high school students and above).

See details at: <https://www.mori.art.museum/en/index.html>



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