



# TAKASHI MURAKAMI MONONOKE KYOTO

## 村上隆ものものけ京都

2024年2月3日(土)–9月1日(日) FEBRUARY 3 (SAT)–SEPTEMBER 1 (SUN), 2024  
京都市京セラ美術館 新館 東山キューブ Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art Higashiyama Cube

Takashi Murakami, Summer Flower Field under the Golden Sky, 2023 (Reference image) ©2023 Takashi Murakami/Kaikai Kiki Co., Ltd. All Rights Reserved.

Takashi Murakami's large-scale solo exhibition in Kyoto  
finally opens on February 3

To commemorate the opening, we are gifting the Collectible Trading Card  
for the first 50,000 visitors! \*Distribution was completed on February 6.

Audio guide, opening talk event, special merchandise, and other latest news

Venue: Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art, Higashiyama Cube

Exhibition Period: February 3 – September 1, 2024

Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art, which celebrated its ninetieth anniversary in 2023, is pleased to present Takashi Murakami Mononoke Kyoto, a large-scale solo exhibition of works by Takashi Murakami (b. 1962–), an artist at the forefront of contemporary art.

Superflat, the art and cultural theory that Murakami proposed in 2000, has had a major impact on the contemporary art scene over the years. The theory has explored the essential meaning of art, not only linking traditional Japanese pictorial expression with pop culture, such as anime, manga, and video games, but also considering Japanese sensibilities and aspects of society before and after World War II, along with capitalist economics, politics, and religion, all on a flattened plane. With a distinctively Japanese perspective, Murakami's career has continually challenged and stimulated the international art scene that takes the Western values as its de facto norm.

The Edo period (1603 – 1868) artists thrived in Kyoto, and fine arts, performing arts, festivals, and traditional events from the ancient times remain alive and well in this city to this day. Murakami's first large-scale solo exhibition in Japan

in roughly eight years takes place here in the city that has fascinated the artist since the beginning of his career. Divided into multiple sections, the exhibition presents about 170 works, the majority of which are either new creations or pieces never before exhibited in Japan. This includes his newly produced *Rakuchū-Rakugai-zu Byōbu: Iwasa Matabei R/P*, a series of works based on the theme of the four deities that symbolize the four cardinal directions; and other representative works. Takashi Murakami never ceases to move forward. The exhibition that showcases the new Murakami World he has created by approaching Kyoto head-on will finally open on February 3. Don't miss this opportunity to see Takashi Murakami's solo exhibition, rumored possibly to be his last in Japan.

## ◎ Exhibition Outline

Title: : Kyoto City Museum of Art 90th Anniversary Exhibition  
Takashi Murakami Mononoke Kyoto

Venue: Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art, Higashiyama Cube

Period: February 3 (Sat.) – September 1 (Sun.), 2024

\*Some of the exhibited works are subject to change during the exhibition period.

Hours: 10:00-18:00 (Last admission: 17:30)

Museum closed on Mondays, except on public holidays

Admission: Adult ¥2,200 (Advance/Group ¥2,000)

University student ¥1,500 (Advance/Group ¥1,300)

High school student ¥1,000 (Advance/Group ¥800)

Free admission for junior high school students and younger

**Free admission for university students and under living or attending school in Kyoto City with valid ID. \*3**

\*1 Free admission for persons with disability certificate and one attendant (please bring your student ID, disability certificate, or other proof of identification).

\*2 Other special tickets are available.

\*3 This measure has been made possible through generous donations.

Organizers: City of Kyoto, The Asahi Shimbun, The Kyoto Shimbun, NHK Kyoto Station,  
NHK Enterprises Inc. Osaka Branch Office

Creative Partner: Sony Music Entertainment (Japan) Inc.

Production Support: NHK Promotions Inc.

Special Cooperation: Kaikai Kiki Co., Ltd., Perrotin, Gagolian

Major Sponsor: LOUIS VUITTON

Sponsors: MELCO Group Inc., Daimaru Matsuzakaya Department Stores Co. Ltd.,  
KOEKISHA Co., Ltd., Hibiki FA Co., Ltd.

Support: Kyoto Pharmaceutical Industries, Ltd., Takamura Co., Ltd., Branco Inc., YAMATO TRANSPORT CO., LTD.

Curator: Takahashi Shinya (Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art)

Curatorial Cooperation: Miki Akiko

Website: <https://takashimurakami-kyoto.exhibit.jp/en/>

Social Media : <X> [@mononoke\\_kyoto](#) <Instagram> [@takashimurakami\\_mononoke\\_kyoto](#)

Inquiries: +81-75-771-4334 (Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art)

© **What's New**

**1) 4.3-meter-tall *Embodiment of 'A'* and *Embodiment of 'Um'* statues appear in the Central Hall**

The 4.3-meter-tall red *Embodiment of 'A'* and blue *Embodiment of 'Um'* guardian statues, which are trampling on evil demons that bring bad luck, were created in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake to pray for protection against natural disasters, epidemics, wars, and various other calamities. The installation of the *Embodiment of 'A'* and *Embodiment of 'Um'* statues is now complete in the Central Hall of the Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art, ahead of the exhibition opening. Please look forward to encountering the two statues, which will greet visitors at the entrance to the Higashiyama Cube exhibition venue and invite them into the world of Takashi Murakami Mononoke Kyoto.



Installation view at Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art, 2024  
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**2) The first 50,000 visitors will each receive a Collectible Trading Card**

**\*Distribution was completed on February 6.**

The NFT (Non-Fungible Token) art project has attracted much attention among Takashi Murakami's recent activities. Murakami's very first NFT work, Murakami. Flowers, featured a series of Murakami's signature Flowers expressed as 24 x 24 pixel dots inspired by Japanese TV games of the 1970s. And now, reimagined as trading cards, the series is gaining attention in the next stage of its development. For this exhibition, the first 50,000 visitors to the Takashi Murakami Mononoke Kyoto exhibition will each receive a limited-edition trading card. Please be sure to get your hands on these cards, which will only be available at this exhibition.



\*One trading card per ticket will be distributed at the time of admission. The card can only be redeemed with an unused exhibition ticket. **\*For customers with multiple admission tickets, the maximum number of tickets that can be exchanged at one admission is limited to 10 per person. (Distribution method is subject to change depending on the operating conditions at the venue.)** \*A trading card can be redeemed with an entrance ticket for visitors with free admission. Entrance ticket is available at the ticket counter. \*Distribution is on a first-come, first-served basis. \*There are 12 types of cards in total, with Japanese and English versions each. \*You cannot select the design or the language. \*One card will be randomly placed in each envelope.

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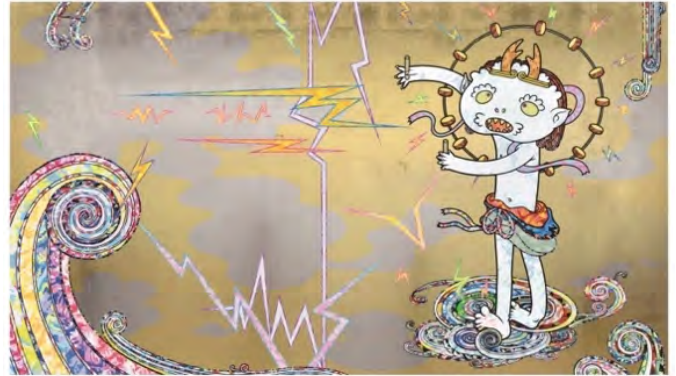
### 3) An extensive body of new and never-before-seen works by Takashi Murakami, who faces Kyoto head-on, to premiere

This exhibition features a number of new works and others on view for the first time in Japan, that Murakami has created by reinterpreting, referencing, and reconstructing the exemplary works of painters who were active in Kyoto during the Edo period. One of the highlights is *Wind God* and *Thunder God*. The theme of the Wind and Thunder Gods has been revisited and copied almost every century by the likes of Tawaraya Sōtatsu, Ogata Kōrin, and Sakai Hōitsu, among others. Now, 200 years after Hōitsu's "Wind God and Thunder God", Takashi Murakami has taken up this theme and created a new work that will certainly warrant a look in person at the exhibition.



*Wind God*, 2023-2024

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*Thunder God*, 2023-2024

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### 4) Kento Yamazaki and Awich to host the audio guide in Japanese and English, respectively

Your guides to the exhibition will be Kento Yamazaki, a high-profile actor who has played a variety of roles in popular movies and TV dramas, in Japanese and Awich, a rapper leading the Japanese hip-hop scene, in English. The captivating voices of these stars will guide you through the multilayered Kyoto as depicted by Takashi Murakami.

Number of entries in the audio guide: 16 Total running time: Approx. 30 minutes

Rental fee: ¥650 (incl. tax)

#### Kento Yamazaki

Born 1994 in Tokyo, Yamazaki made his acting debut in 2010. Recent major starring roles include those in the "Kingdom" movie series, the Netflix drama series "Alice in Borderland", the TBS Sunday theater series "Atom's Last Shot", and the movie "Golden Kamuy". In addition to the upcoming films "Onmyoji Zero", scheduled for release on April 19, and "Kingdom: Return of the General", scheduled for release on July 12, production of the third series of Netflix's "Alice in Borderland" has been confirmed.

Website:

<https://official.stardust.co.jp/yamazakikento/sp/>



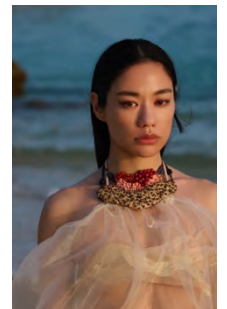
#### Awich

A female rapper leading the Japanese hip-hop scene.

Awich is a coined term derived from the direct translation of her real name written in Kanji, "Asia Wish Child."

Born in Naha, Okinawa in 1986, she debuted in 2006 with the EP "Inner Research" and moved to Atlanta, USA around the same time. While living a street life, she produced her first full album, "Asia Wish Child", released in 2007. The following year, she got married and gave birth to a daughter. Her album, "Queendom", released in 2022, earned the top spot in the Apple Album category, and she held her first performance at Japan's Nippon Budokan the same year. In 2023, in addition to holding her first nationwide Zepp tour, she released the album "THE UNION". In November, she hosted her first one-woman arena concert, "Queendom—THE UNION—at K-Arena Yokohama", which was sold out. She has also expanded her activities overseas.

Website: <https://awich098.com/>



## 5) Takashi Murakami Mononoke Kyoto limited edition merchandise: Featured items at the opening

A special store for the Takashi Murakami Mononoke Kyoto exhibition will appear right in the venue! Various original items exclusive to the exhibition featuring designs of Takashi Murakami’s works in the show, as well as limited-edition items only available on site will be released on a rolling basis throughout the exhibition. The latest information will be posted on the exhibition’s official Instagram and X accounts.



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### Strawberry Pistachio in Special Box

Price: ¥3,240 (incl. tax)

A special tin box adorned with the “Summer Flower Field under the Golden Sky” in relief contains 7 individually wrapped freeze-dried strawberries coated in pistachio chocolate.

### CHA no KA special boxes: “The Wind God” and “The Thunder God”

Price: ¥594 (incl. tax)

Internationally successful confectionery from Kyoto, CHA no KA—*langue de chat* in green tea flavor—comes in boxes adorned with Murakami’s new works, “Wind God” and “Thunder God”. Exclusive to the exhibition, each box contains 3 individually wrapped CHA no KA with a branding of his famous flower.

## 6) Opening talk event for Takashi Murakami Mononoke Kyoto now scheduled

An opening talk event will be held on February 3, the first day of the exhibition. We invite Takashi Murakami to talk about the exhibition’s themes of “Mononoke” and “Kyoto,” the background and significance of holding the exhibition in Kyoto, the exhibited works, his future activities, and more.

### Opening Artist Talk

Speaker: Takashi Murakami

Interviewer: Takahashi Shinya (Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art, Project Planning and Promotion Office | Curator of the exhibition)

Date: Saturday, February 3, 2024, 15:00-17:00 (doors open at 14:30)

Venue: Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art, Lecture Room (B1F, Main Building)

Capacity: 100 persons (First-come-first-served basis. Numbered



Photo: Claire Dorn  
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tickets will be distributed in front of the Lecture Room starting at 10:15 on the day.)

Admission: Free

\*A valid ticket for Takashi Murakami Mononoke Kyoto exhibition is required. Admission accepted before or after viewing the exhibition.

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### Gallery Talks by the Exhibition Organizers

Throughout the exhibition, tour-style gallery talks will be held irregularly in the exhibition rooms. Please take these opportunities to enjoy the exhibition while learning about the background of the exhibited works.

Confirmed Dates: Friday, February 16, 2024 at 16:00 and Thursday 29, 2024 at 16:00

\*Each talk will be approximately 45 minutes long

Venue: Higashiyama Cube

Admission: Free (valid ticket for Takashi Murakami Mononoke Kyoto exhibition is required. Admission accepted before or after viewing the exhibition)

Capacity: About 10 persons per session (Reservations not required. First-come-first-served basis. Numbered tickets will be distributed at the Higashiyama Cube lobby one hour prior to each session.)

Guide: Takahashi Shinya (Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art)

\*Schedules for March and beyond will be announced on the exhibition website and social media accounts.

### © Related Programs

Throughout the seven-month period of the exhibition, which extends from around *Setsubun* in early February through the coming of spring and into summer, various special programs related to traditional seasonal events and festivals of Japan and Kyoto are planned, in addition to related programs such as lectures and gallery talks. Further details will be announced on the exhibition website and social media accounts as soon as they are confirmed.

**7) A giant sculpture about 10 meters in height is now being installed in the Japanese Garden! Completion scheduled for early March**

**Collaboration with Louis Vuitton Comes to Fruition.  
Unveiling scheduled for early March 2024**

In 2020, the giant golden sculpture *Flower Parent and Child* (previously titled *Haha Bangla Manus*) was unveiled in Tokyo, garnering much attention. This work, created to express Takashi Murakami's conflicting feelings about the pandemic and his desire to continue moving forward, will appear in the Japanese Garden of the Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art in early March 2024 **in collaboration with Louis Vuitton!** Please look forward to visiting this new landscape in Kyoto featuring the work that aims to convey hope for the future through the power of art.



*Flower Parent and Child, 2020*

Photo by Kozo Takayama

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## 8) Related NEWS: Takashi Murakami to design Hanamikoji Street Arch to commemorate the 150th Miyako Odori Performance

Miyako Odori is a springtime tradition in Kyoto, in which a total of about 60 geikos and maikos entertain the crowds. This year, Takashi Murakami will design the arch of Hanamikoji, the main street in Gion. We hope you will enjoy a worldview in which Murakami's uniquely exuberant and colorful designs fuse together with traditional culture.

Period: Monday, April 1 – Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Details : <https://miyako-odori.jp/>



### ◎ Catalogue

Heibonsha will publish a catalogue of this exhibition that condenses its appeal into a single book. In addition to the exhibition venue, it will also be available at general bookstores. The catalogue is scheduled to be published around the end of April 2024 to allow the inclusion of installation photographs from the exhibition. Details will be announced on the exhibition website and other media as soon as they are finalized.

Commentary on works: Takashi Murakami

Essays: Takahashi Shinya, Miki Akiko, Hashimoto Mari

Language: Japanese, English

Price: ¥4,400 (incl. tax)

Published by: Heibonsha Ltd.

Release date: End of April 2024 (tentative)

\* Pre-order will be available from February 3 at Asahi Shimbun Mall: <https://shop.asahi.com/>

### ◎ Takashi Murakami Profile


Born in Tokyo in 1962, Takashi Murakami completed his doctorate at Tokyo University of the Arts in 1993. His doctoral dissertation was titled "The Meaning of the Nonsense of the Meaning". In 2000, he proposed the concept of "Superflat" as a form of contemporary culture that makes reference to the state of Japanese society by linking traditional Japanese art with the flatness of anime and manga. In 2001, he founded Kaikai Kiki Co., Ltd. and serves as its representative. In 2005, his exhibition Little Boy (Japan Society, New York) was awarded the Best Thematic Museum Show by the American branch of the International Association of Art Critics. In 2015, he received the 66th Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Award for Fine Arts from the Agency for Cultural Affairs. Recent solo exhibitions include Stepping on the Tail of a Rainbow (The Broad, LA, 2022), MurakamiZombie (Busan Museum of Art, Busan, 2023), Understanding the New Cognitive Domain (Gagosian, Le Bourget, 2023), and Takashi Murakami: Unfamiliar People – Swelling of Monsterized Human Ego (Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, 2023).



Photo by Museum of Fine Arts, Boston  
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**©Please visit the special exhibition website for exhibition highlights and major works exhibited.**

<https://takashimurakami-kyoto.exhibit.jp/en/>

Social media accounts:  [@mononoke\\_kyoto](https://twitter.com/mononoke_kyoto)

 [@takashimurakami\\_mononoke\\_kyoto](https://www.instagram.com/takashimurakami_mononoke_kyoto)

For inquiries, please contact: “Takashi Murakami Mononoke Kyoto” Publicity Office (Kyodo PR, Attn: Mitsui)

E-mail: [takashimurakami-kyoto-pr@kyodo-pr.co.jp](mailto:takashimurakami-kyoto-pr@kyodo-pr.co.jp) TEL: 03-6264-2382