



TAKASHI MURAKAMI (b. 1962)**Eye Ball Pink**

Written in pen, verso, "Painting Director: Tomoko Sugimoto. Painting Staff: Yoko Toshima, Saori Watanabe, Naoto Moriwaki, Mariko Suzuki, Tetsuo Maruyama, Kaori Kimura. Computer Engineer: Chiho Aoshima."

acrylic on canvas laid on wood

24 x 23 3/4 x 2 in.

60.96 x 60.33 x 5.08 cm

2001

32752

PROVENANCE:

Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York
Private Collection, Massachusetts

EXHIBITION:

Birmingham, The Birmingham Museum of Art, on extended loan

LITERATURE:

Literature T. Murakami, M. Yusuke and M. Darling, MURAKAMI: summon monsters? open the door? heal? or die?, Tokyo 2001 (illustrated, chapter 1 works vol. 3: Character, plate q)

Takashi Murakami is one of the most celebrated contemporary and Japanese artists. Murakami developed the theoretical and visual language of "Superflat". He based his art movement on the Japanese "flat" art aesthetic and of anime and manga fused with commentary on the Kawaii tendency in postmodern Japan.

Murakami and his art have chartered new ground in infiltrating and merging high and low culture. The painting features a proliferation of eyes in his trademark style. No two eyes are exactly alike, and each are in various states of opening or closing. Like his art, these eyes have hidden depth – the irises contain a multitude of miniature concentric circles. The painting seems to combine elements of pop culture, cartoons, technology, and fashion into a singular plane.

Takashi Murakami (b. 1962 in Tokyo) earned a BA, MFA, and PhD from Tokyo University of the Arts. Although, he attended with the intention of working in the Japanese animation industry, Murakami eventually majored in Nihonga, the traditional 20th century Japanese painting style with strict guidelines on subject, technique, and material. After graduating, however, Murakami grew disillusioned with the art world. He found that traditional Nihonga artmaking was a too insular and political world, while the contemporary art world in Japan had appropriated the trends of the West. As a result, Murakami's early work incorporated biting social criticism against Japan's consumer culture and art world

Since the early 1990s, Murakami has invented characters in his art that synthesize various elements of popular culture, especially cartoons, from Japan, Europe, and the

United States. These characters serve various purposes, acting sometimes as a means of self-portraiture or as icons for themes related to violence, technology, and fantasy. Today, Murakami is particularly known for Superflat, a 2000 exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles that also heralded a new theory of art. Developed by Murakami in an essay accompanying the exhibition, the Superflat theory posits that there is a legacy of 2-dimensionality in Japanese visual culture which can be found in traditional Nihonga painting, ukiyo-e printmaking, as well as anime and manga. The Superflat theory also argues that there is a cultural flattening in Japan, wherein the distinction between social class and popular taste is collapsing.

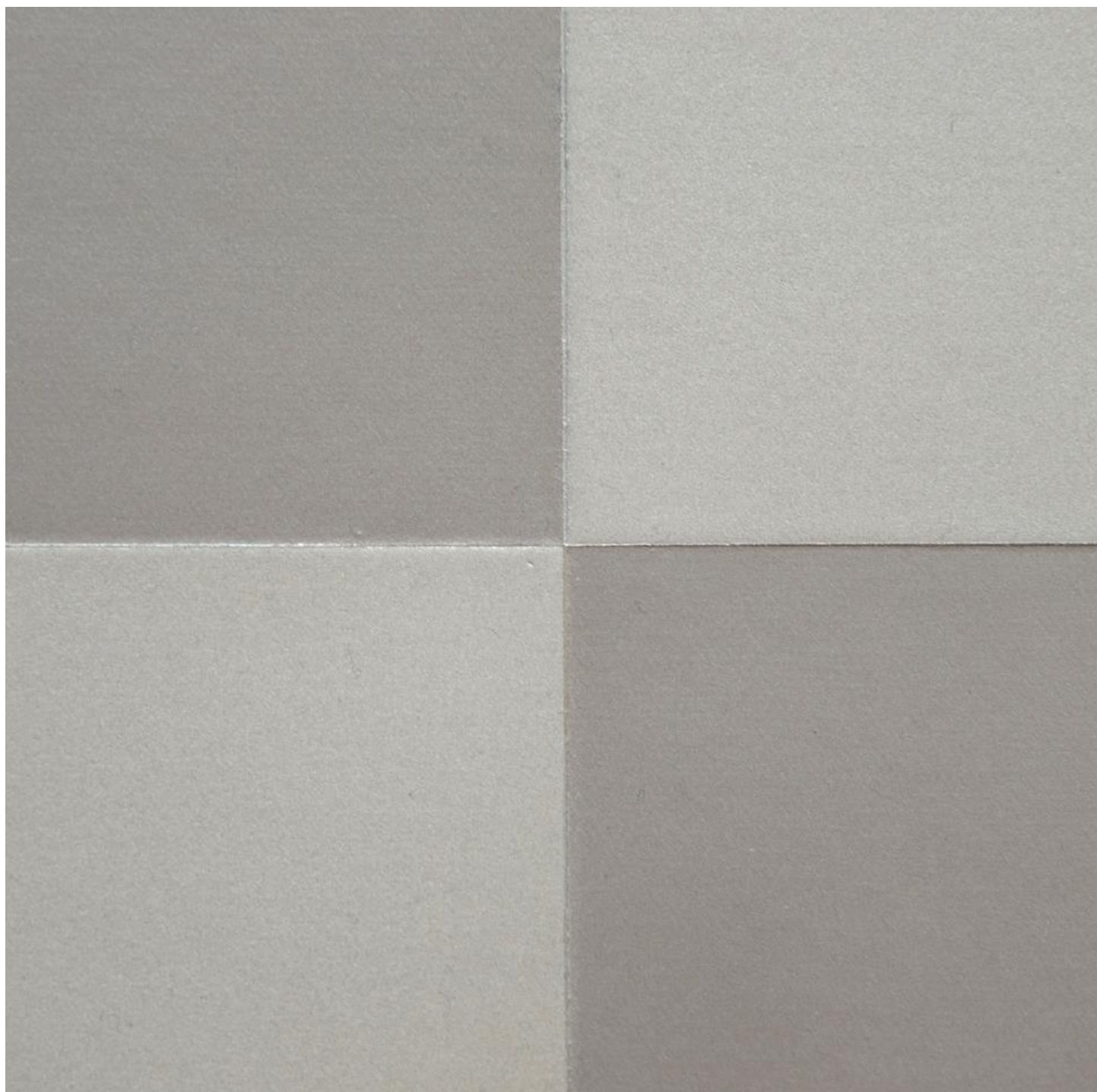
Since the Superflat exhibition, Murakami's popularity and cultural influence have only grown. In addition to exhibitions of his work at major art institutions, Murakami's work is also found on mass-produced items such as toys, key-chains, and t-shirts. Murakami's work merges artistic time periods, styles, and subjects, and also crosses between the gallery, studio, art fair, museum, and the mass consumer.

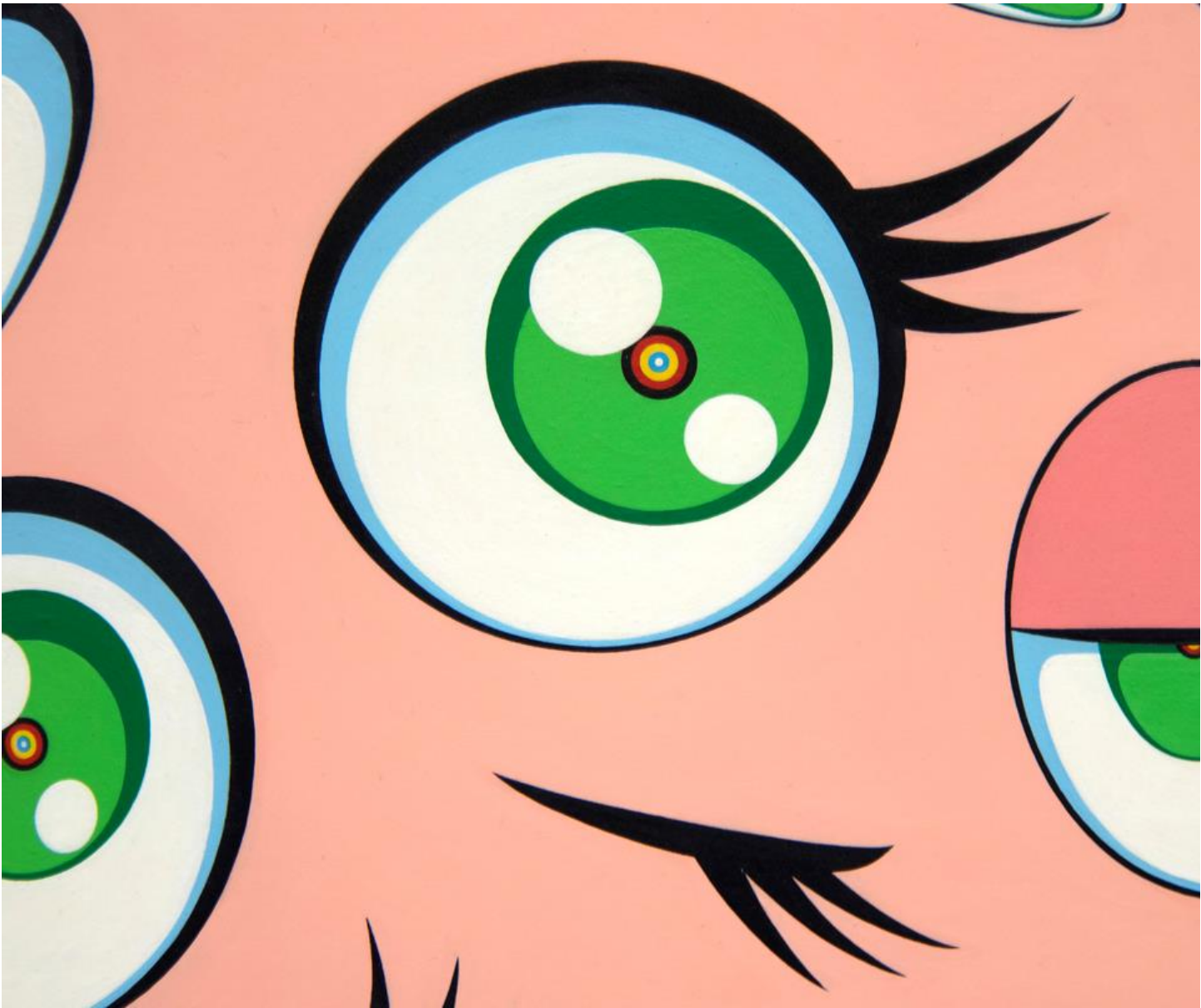
Takashi Murakami's work has been exhibited in prestigious museums and galleries all over the world. He has had recent solo shows at Gagosian in Beverly Hills, London, and Paris (2019, 2018); the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY (2017); the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (2017); The Palace of Versailles, Île-de-France, France (2010); the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris (2002); and Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo. His work is represented in the public collections of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; and the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN among many others

The information and material herein represents Gallery's best efforts and understanding of the current history and scholarship with respect to the provenance of the Work(s) of Art described and is not part of any warranty.



















Takashi Murakami
Eye Ball 0018
2001
Acrylic on canvas mounted on wood
23.62 x 23.62 inches
TM-0269
MARUOKA GALLERY 510 W 23rd Street New York NY 10011

L+M
TAKASHI MURAKAMI
Eye Ball 0018
2001
acrylic on canvas mounted on wood
23.62 x 23.62 inches (24 x 24 cm)
L+M Gallery, Inc. 101 W 23rd Street New York NY 10011

Painting Director:
Tomoko Sugimoto
Painting Staff:
Yoko Toshima
Saori Watanabe
Naoto Moriwaki
Mariko Suzuki
Tetsuo Maruyama
Kaori Kimura
Computer Engineer:
Chiho Aoshima

10/2/11