



**TAKASHI MURAKAMI (b. 1962)**

**Want to Hold You**

**Murakami LIC Studio number 28401**

acrylic on canvas

59 x 59 in.

2014

38099

**PROVENANCE:**

Private Collection, commissioned by artist, 2014

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.



























• Material  
Acrylic and Platinum Leaf on canvas mounted on board  
1700 x 50 mm diameter

Staff List

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Shisho  
Siho Yoon

• Chief Data Operator  
Nana Miyagi

• Data Operator  
Miko Ikeda  
Chieri Nakano  
Chisa Senda  
Ryo Saito  
Miyumi Hirose  
Eri Namikawa  
Mayu Takemoto  
Aki Tsuduki

• Color Chart & Silkscreen Data  
Siho Yoon

• Silkscreen Production  
Taylor Talyan

• Panel Preparation  
Tadahiro Yamada  
Kohji Sato  
Toshiki Kikuchi  
Shuhei Sugiyama  
Niiya Hatakeda  
Jiichi Roede Adachi

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Lindora Selet  
Kristen Leone  
Jake Reed  
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Haruka Tajiri  
Haruka Oyaidu

• Painting Consultant  
Tomoko Sugimoto

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