

Art Projects Ibiza announces a solo exhibition of works by Takashi Murakami opening this summer on the island of Ibiza, Spain. The multifaceted exhibition consisting of paintings, sculptures, and film screenings will be held in four locations: Art Projects Ibiza in collaboration with Blum & Poe, exhibition space Lune Rouge Ibiza, the Ibiza Gran Hotel, and restaurant and performance space HEART Ibiza. In this groundbreaking presentation, Murakami continues to conflate historical, contemporary, and futuristic Japanese references with myriad styles, methodologies, and forms—a practice that has canonized him as one of the most celebrated artists of our time.

Art Projects Ibiza, whose mission is to foster creative partnerships with artists and galleries worldwide by inviting international collaborators to realize large-scale shows, will host Blum & Poe in its newly renovated exhibition space. The project's launch features a remarkable display of Murakami's recent works, including abstract Kōrin paintings, flower ball paintings, and sculpture. The abstract Kōrin paintings, named for the Rinpa-school Edo painter Ogata Kōrin, layer a lexicon of symbols, combining the artist's interest in classical Japanese aesthetics with Abstract Expressionist tropes, manga imagery, and Buddhist symbolism. The flower ball paintings intermingle his signature style of optimistic and bright, smiling flower faces with the artist's trademark handmade, silkscreened, and gestural techniques. Also to be on view, *Fate* (2013), a gold leaf, wall-mounted sculpture, portrays an accumulation of cascading skulls overlapping and melding together, brilliantly distorting surface and depth.

Murakami's *69 Arhats Beneath the Bodhi Tree* (2013), a ten-meter painting from his *Arhat* series, will be exhibited at Lune Rouge Ibiza, an exhibition space dedicated to the collection of Guy Laliberté, a prominent contemporary art collector and Cirque du Soleil founder.

Created in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in 2011, the work depicts an ancient tale of Buddhist monks confronting death and decay, where mythical monsters and decrepit figures in traditional robes wander a psychedelic landscape. Flanking the artist's masterpiece are two large-scale red and blue demon sculptures. Titled *Embodiment of "A"* and *Embodiment of "Um"* (2014)—the first and last letters of the Sanskrit alphabet—these two sculptures stand in witness to the cycle of human karma vividly portrayed in the adjacent painting. Murakami's exhibition will inaugurate Lune Rouge Ibiza, whose philanthropic mission is to contribute to the cultural landscape of Ibiza through a program of engaging exhibitions of established and emerging artists. Laliberté's continued commitment to the island, an important home of his for over thirty years, aims at inspiring creativity and discovery through shared viewing experiences, awareness, and education.

Positioned at the entrance of Ibiza Gran Hotel, the only Five Star Grand Luxe hotel in Ibiza, Murakami's colossal sculpture *Oval Buddha* (2007) is now on view through October 2015. Standing more than eighteen feet tall, the work is unequivocally monumental and displays a technical virtuosity in its emblematic self-portraiture and application of aluminum and platinum leaf. Activating this public space through the narrative of enlightenment and transcendence, *Oval Buddha* has the distinction of being

included in his 2007 retrospective *@Murakami*, which was organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles and traveled to three other museums.

On view in the outdoor entryway leading to HEART Ibiza and Casino de Ibiza will be Murakami's new bronze relief sculpture, titled *Nehan* (2015), whose conglomeration of skulls and fantastical crowns introduce a contemporary iconography into an ancient vocabulary. Situated in the lobby will be Murakami's intricate tondo painting, titled *Sage* (2014), which is stylistically related to the *Arhat* series. HEART Ibiza is a new state-of-the-art, fine-dining restaurant and stunning performance space created by Laliberte and chefs Albert and Ferran Adrià of El Bulli fame located adjacent to Ibiza Gran Hotel.

Exploring the intersections of food, dance, art, and music, the space will combine all sensory elements to create an experience unlike any other that will be simultaneously visual, experiential, and dynamic. A limited engagement screening of the artist's first live-action feature film, *Jellyfish Eyes* (2013), will take place on Ibiza. Ten years in the making, the film utilizes both live-action and computer-generated imagery (CGI) in this coming-of-age tale about a boy in contemporary Japan confronting his country's past and future after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. *Jellyfish Eyes*, the first in a trilogy of feature films directed and produced by Murakami, debuted in April of 2013 at Los Angeles County Museum of Art and has been screened at museums and cinemas throughout the world.

Takashi Murakami was born in 1962 in Tokyo, and received his BFA, MFA, and PhD from the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music. He founded the Hiropon factory in Tokyo in 1996, which later evolved into Kaikai Kiki Co., a large-scale art production and art management corporation. In 2000, he organized a paradigmatic exhibition of Japanese art titled *Superflat*, which traced the origins of contemporary Japanese visual pop culture to historical Japanese art.

TAKASHI MURAKAMI  
Art Projects Ibiza | Lune Rouge  
24 June 2015 – 25 December 2015

In collaboration with

**BLUM  
& POE**