

## GAGOSIAN GALLERY



# Playboy fantasies and whopping anatomies as Takashi Murakami saturates Gagosian Gallery

By Culture24 Staff | 05 July 2011



© Photo Muir Vidler. Artwork (C) 2011 Takashi Murakami/Kaikai Kiki Co., Ltd. All Rights Reserved. Murakami is known for his "superflat" style, merging traditional painting techniques with animated elements. His newest paintings, though, take an already-controversial legacy and douses it in new patterns and imagery.

***Exhibition: Takashi Murakami, Gagosian Gallery, London, until August 5 2011***

Tokyo artist Takashi Murakami pours a cauldron of saucy satire over his sleazy ventures into fine art.

His first gift to the world, 1997's Miss Ko2, made a life-size sculpture into an ebullient playboy fantasy with a manga twist, and Nurse Ko2, his more recent statue, boasts "busty verticality", a sexy uniform and a "suggestively-loaded syringe".

The ability of his 3-Meter Girl to support herself is threatened by "whopping pendular breasts", and elsewhere there are highly-polished metal penises and vaginas and graphic depictions of exaggerated genitals.

Kuroda Seiki, an exponent of Western-style painting in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, shocked with his propensity for rendering nudes, so Murakami promptly takes his best-known triptych, Wisdom, Impressionism, Sentiment, and applies gold and silver-leafing and elements of manga to it.

If his imagination is juvenile, the results are always absurd and addictive.

**Open Tues-Sat 10am-6pm. Admission free. Gagosian London, Britannia St, London**