

GAGOSIAN GALLERY



Murakami meditates on disaster



Murakami in front of his newest work. Photo: Shin Suzuki, artwork © Takashi Murakami/Kaikai Kiki Co, Ltd, all Rights Reserved, courtesy Gagosian Gallery

Having portrayed himself as a cartoonish Buddha and created a series of monumental portraits of the founder of Zen Buddhism, Takashi Murakami continues his transcendental meditations next month at Gagosian Gallery. On 10 November, the gallery opens a show at its 24th Street location of the Japanese artist's latest work, which deals with the role of faith after a natural disaster, such as the earthquake that struck the Tohoku region of Japan in 2011. "In the Land of the Dead: Stepping on the Tail of a Rainbow" (until 17 January) includes an "immersive installation, entered through a 56-ton replica of a *sanmon* (sacred gate)... deliquescing clones of his fictional creature Mr Dob; and *karajishi*, the mythic lions that guard Japanese Buddhist temples," according to the gallery. "To me, religions are a story," Murakami says in a statement. "Natural catastrophes, earthquakes, are things caused by nature. Evil is natural, but we have to fight it somehow, and so we had to invent these deities, and I wanted to paint them."