

MARIANNE BOESKY GALLERY

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PRESS RELEASE

Takashi Murakami *Mushroom*

March 17-April 14, 2001

Opening March 16, 6-8pm

In Japan, there is no high and there is no low. It's all flat.

—Takashi Murakami

Marianne Boesky Gallery is pleased to announce a new exhibition by internationally acclaimed artist Takashi Murakami. *Mushroom*, a new suite of paintings, further expounds on Murakami's idea of "Superflat", an emergent trend in Japanese contemporary art he has notably presented in his curated group shows (*Superflat* is currently on view at LA MOCA's Pacific Design Center through May 27). Murakami believes Japan's new art to be continually influenced by a technology-saturated world centered around animation, hi-tech computer imagery, and other graphic arts, while remaining anchored in traditional Japanese artistic history. In his own work, Murakami adds elements from Japanese pop culture's *manga* and *anime* to his traditional training in *nihanga* painting—to result in this "Superflat" style.

In this new group of paintings, Murakami returns to brightly colored flowers and mushrooms flattened against silver grounds reminiscent of the golden screens found throughout the centuries in Japanese art. Images of seemingly benign mushrooms and flowers develop alternate personalities with the addition of facial features, allowing their symbolism to run the gamut from harmless to villainous. Working with the strength of the drawn line, long paramount in Japanese art, Murakami successfully leads the viewer's gaze through his dynamic, yet balanced, asymmetrical compositions.

Marianne Boesky Gallery is open Tuesday-Saturday, from 10am-6pm. For more information, please contact the gallery at (212) 680-9889.

*A sculpture installation by Murakami entitled *wink* is also currently on view in Grand Central Station's Vanderbilt Hall. In collaboration with Creative Time and the MTA, this project consists of two new floor sculptures and three monumental balloons.

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