

Sep 23 (Thu/holiday) – Sep 26 (Sun), 2021

“Roppongi Art Night 2021”: An art festival staged across Roppongi
“Magical Adventure : Find Your Art of Wonder in the Town!”

This year’s main program artist is Takashi Murakami, one of the top names in Japanese contemporary art! Murakami has curated a selection of artists who, together with him, will take on Doraemon!

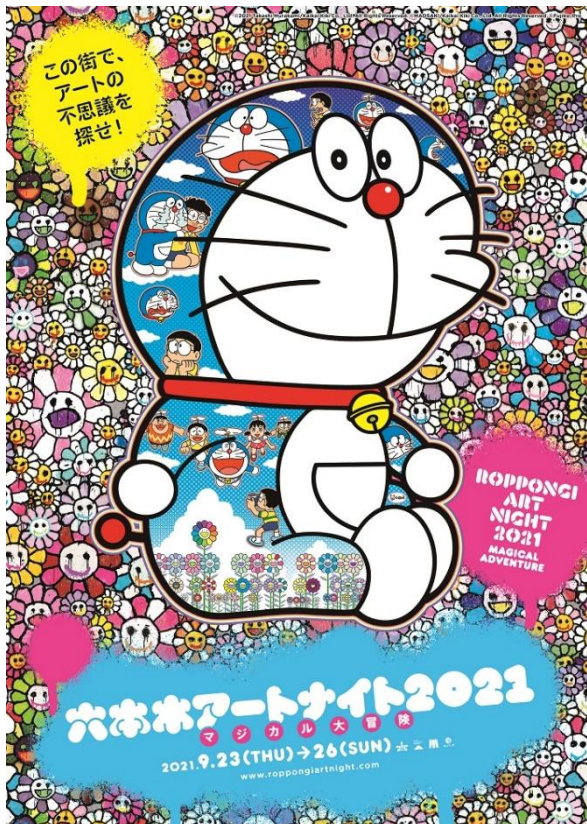
Roppongi Art Night is a festival of the arts unfolding from the stage of Roppongi City. The festival aims to further the possibilities of art within society by developing content such as art installations, music, performances, and talk events throughout the entire city of Roppongi, a place known for its assembly of cultural facilities (including art museums), large-scale complexes, and shopping districts. Held continuously since its inaugural edition in 2009, it has become established as a premier urban art festival.

This edition of Roppongi Art Night 2021 picks up from last year’s cancelled Roppongi Art Night 2020 and the programs of Roppongi Art Night Spin-off Project, incorporating digital programming to further elevate the event.

Roppongi Art Night 2021 is planned as a real and digital hybrid event. The duration of the core-event has been extended to take place from September 23 (Thu/holiday) – 26 (Sun), as a measure to reduce the impact of crowds and the spread of COVID-19, while still allowing viewers to enjoy the works of art and explore the city of Roppongi.

The online-exclusive event Roppongi Art Night Spin-off Project was held in February 2021 as a way to keep the flame of art alive and as a new experiment of Roppongi Art Night, which is based in the real “city” of Roppongi. Roppongi Art Night Digital including “RAN TV” debuted as a new component of this event. Roppongi Art Night 2021 will continue to develop these initiatives.

We hope that the extraordinary atmosphere of the city colored in art will create a fulfilling experience that brings both viewers and art closer together. We will also showcase the allure of art online, which can be enjoyed at any time and from any place.



Our main artist will be Takashi Murakami, one of the top names in Japanese contemporary art!

For this installment’s motif, Murakami has chosen “Doraemon,” the beloved children’s comic book character that he calls the “biggest Japanese pop icon of the 20th century.” In recent years, the artist has produced a series of works involving the character, a “collaboration” with the late Fujiko F. Fujio, the creator of Doraemon.

In addition, Murakami has selected a group of artists who will take on “Doraemon” in similar fashion.

“Roppongi Art Night 2021” Theme:

“Magical Adventure : Find Your Art of Wonder in the Town!”

Once a year, art from all corners of the globe assembles in Roppongi.

The event will include a special contemporary artwork of “Doraemon,” installation, video, and performance works throughout the city, as well as a variety of video works, performances, and talk programs that can be enjoyed digitally through Roppongi Art Night Digital (including RAN TV).

Under the spell of art, the city will transform into a magical world filled with mystery.

Setting out on an adventure to search for the mysteries of art, there are many discoveries of surprise and emotion awaiting.

We hope you enjoy this great magical adventure with “Doraemon.”

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This year’s main visual was created based on the original visual by artist Takashi Murakami, who is in charge of the main program. Murakami’s representative motif, flowers, will be placed around the motif “Doraemon” selected by Murakami for this time. The flowers used for the visual is a collaboration with artist MADSAKI, who is also participating for Roppongi Art Night. Groovisions, one of the design studio that represents Japan, will be in charge of visual productions.



Photo by Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
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Seen from outside Japan, Tokyo is an extreme megalopolis. Like, a straight-out-of-Blade-Runner sort of metropolis. People may assume that beautiful robot girls walk around town.

Now, as far as the art that such a city has to offer goes, what feels truly real? My answer is manga. Manga is the Japanese art. But then there is also Western-style art. So I asked myself what would be the best fusion, the best collaboration of these two, and decided on Doraemon. The reason is because the subtle misalignment in reactions, a geographical variation in how this fusion is received around the world, is absolutely wonderful.

When I did a collaboration with Uniqlo that combined my flowers and Doraemon, the response from people in Asia was something along the line of, "Yes! You've nailed it, Japan! Doraemon! So cute, so cool! And now collaborating with art, too!" But in the West, it was: "Oh, a crossover between Murakami's usual flowers and some Japanese character. I'm not sure I get it, but nice!" This project aims to leverage these differences in reception and in the order of perception to show, in a tangible way, what people seek in art today.

Roppongi Art Night. This year, we'll be approaching it more from the perspective of our visitors from overseas than of Japanese people. I wonder how that'll turn out? Well, I hope you'll come and see for yourselves.

Takashi Murakami

Roppongi Art Night 2021 Main Program

Balloon artworks that rank among the largest ever will be exhibited at Roppongi Hills Arena, TOKYO MIDTOWN, and The National Art Center, Tokyo.

- Date and time: September 23 (Thu/holiday) – 26 (Sun)
- Venue: Roppongi Hills Arena, TOKYO MIDTOWN, and The National Art Center, Tokyo



<Work to be exhibited at Roppongi Hills Arena>

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<<Profile>>

Takashi Murakami

Born in Tokyo in 1962. His "Superflat" theory reimagines the sources of Japanese traditional painting and contemporary art through the visual logic and underpinnings of anime and manga. Murakami has created many characters that are reflections of otaku culture, such as Miss Ko² and Mr. DOB, producing sculptures with a high kitsch factor and hyper-two-dimensional paintings that represent the polar opposite of Western perspective. His cultural theories, which are based on Japanese subculture, do not only dismantle hierarchies between high and low: they offer a critical depiction of the postwar Japanese psychology, establishing a uniquely Japanese discourse in the context of the globalizing art scene. His collaborations with Louis Vuitton and activities that have focused on street culture and contemporary ceramics continue to win him new audiences around the world that transcend the domain of contemporary art. The final installment of his Superflat Trilogy, the exhibition Little Boy at Japan Society (New York) curated by Murakami himself in 2005, won the Best Thematic Show by AICA-USA (International Association of Art Critics United States). From 2007 to 2009, his first retrospective exhibition, ©MURAKAMI, travelled to four cities in Europe and the United States, including the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. Since 2010, Murakami has held solo exhibitions at cities around the world, including the Palace of Versailles, the Al Riwaq Exhibition Hall, Doha, the Mori Art Museum, the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow, and Tai Kwun Contemporary, Hong Kong.

A Gathering of “Doraemon” from the Artists Curated by Takashi Murakami!

At Roppongi Art Night 2021, you'll be able to enjoy Takashi Murakami not just as the main program artist, but also in his capacity as a producer.

The artists selected through Murakami's curation will take a similar approach in creating new works of “Doraemon,” and these results under Murakami's production will be displayed at Roppongi Hills Arena, TOKYO MIDTOWN, and The National Art Center, Tokyo. It is with great anticipation that we look forward to this collaboration with a legendary icon, featuring Murakami and contemporary artists.



Mr.

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Aya Takano

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Right) Shoko Nakazawa

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Shin Murata

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Yuta Hosokawa

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Details of the event and information about the participating artists will be announced at the appropriate time. For the latest information, please check the official website or social media channels.

On “Roppongi Art Night 2021”

Over a year has passed since Roppongi Art Night 2020 was cancelled due to the COVID-19 crisis. We aimed to restart our activities within 2020 and planned Roppongi Art Night Spin-off Project in February 2021 to be a real event to the extent that was possible, but as a result of the declaration of a state of emergency, the event was shifted to an online-only format.

In these times, Roppongi Art Night as well as countless other art events and cultural activities have changed substantially from the way they were. Roppongi Art Night would attract anywhere from 500,000 to 700,000 spectators in one night, but we now must avoid creating these types of crowds. In this current situation, where people are asked to refrain from going out at night and food establishments are operating at reduced hours, it becomes difficult to retain one of Roppongi Art Night's distinct features, which is that people can enjoy art through both day and night. We also must avoid presenting artworks that require direct touch to experience.

In light of this situation, Roppongi Art Night 2021 will incorporate the following:

- The event will be expanded from 2 days/1 night into 4 days/3 nights to alleviate crowds.
- Select artworks will be displayed for two weeks before the event to further distribute opportunities to view the works.
- All-night presentations will be avoided, with adjusted hours and locations that best consider safety precautions.
- All artworks will be contactless, without exception.
- The continuation of Roppongi Art Night Digital (including RAN TV), which was originally launched as part of Roppongi Art Night Spin-off Project.

The event will run from September 23 (Thu/holiday) – 26 (Sun), 2021, with a select group of artworks presented beginning on September 11 (Sat). The Roppongi Art Night Digital “RAN TV” programs are slated to be aired in the first part of September and continue through the end of the month. For Roppongi Art Night in 2022 and beyond, we will deeply consider the importance of the past “Roppongi Art Night” events and the wide range of art and viewers they have cultivated from their inception in 2009 and continuing for over 10 years. We will closely consider the effects of the COVID-19 situation as we look to realize future events and the form that they will take.

Mami Kataoka (Director of Mori Art Museum)
Chairperson of Roppongi Art Night Executive Committee



Photo by Akinori Ito

Overview of “Roppongi Art Night 2021”

- Official Title: Roppongi Art Night 2021
- Overview: Roppongi Art Night is an art extravaganza staged in the district of Roppongi. The event proposes a pioneering model for urban development as well as a lifestyle that celebrates the enjoyment of art in our everyday lives. Presenting contemporary art, design, music, film, and performances, Roppongi Art Night offers an extraordinary experience. Launched in March 2009, the event is growing every year.
*Cancelled due to the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, COVID-19 related crisis in 2020.
- Date: Sep 23 (Thu/holiday) – Sep 26 (Sun), 2021
*Select artworks are scheduled to be exhibited from September 11 (Sat).
- Venues: Real: Roppongi Hills; Mori Art Museum; TOKYO MDTOWN; Suntory Museum of Art; 21_21 DESIGN SIGHT; The National Art Center, Tokyo; Roppongi Shopping District; other cooperating facilities and public spaces in the Roppongi area. Digital: YouTube Channel “RAN TV” <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFiRs1izR5RlpKIBcdqD43w>
- Admission: Free *Fee however, fee is required for certain programs and museum events.
- Organizers: Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture), Minato City, Roppongi Art Night Executive Committee [The National Art Center, Tokyo; Suntory Museum of Art; TOKYO MDTOWN; 21_21 DESIGN SIGHT; Mori Art Museum; Mori Building; Roppongi Shopping District Association]
- Support: Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan in the fiscal 2021
- Special collaboration: Fujiko-Pro

WEB: <https://www.roppongiartnight.com/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RoppongiArtNight/>
Twitter: https://twitter.com/r_artnight
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/roppongi_art_night_official/

*The implementation of the event is subject to change or cancellation without notice as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 situation.
Final details are subject to change, in which case we will announce them via the website and social media channels.

Media Inquiries

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