



In real-life
after 3 years!

Sep 17 (Sat) - Sep 19 (Mon/holiday), 2022

**“Roppongi Art Night 2022”: An art festival staged across Roppongi
“Magical Adventure : Find Your Art of Wonder in the Town!”**

We welcome Takashi Murakami, one of the top names in Japanese contemporary art, as the main program artist. He and a group of spirited artists including Mr., Aya Takano, MADSAKI, and Otani Workshop, have created “Doraemon” that will cast a magical spell of art on the city of Roppongi.

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. Holding continuously since its inaugural edition in 2009 it has become established as a premier urban art festival.

For several years, we were forced to shelve real-life programming due to the spread of COVID-19 and its resulting impacts, but we are now pleased to announce that Roppongi Art Night will return in real-life with “Magical Adventure : Find Your Art of Wonder in the Town!” from September 17-19 (Sat–Mon/holiday).

We welcome Takashi Murakami, one of the most internationally-renowned top names in Japanese contemporary art, as our main program artist, in addition to a group of 12 participating artists selected through his curation.

For this installment’s motif, Murakami has chosen “Doraemon.”

Murakami has deemed Doraemon the “biggest Japanese pop icon of the 20th century,” and in recent years, the artist has produced a series of works in collaboration with Fujiko F. Fujio, the original creators of Doraemon. The display planned for Roppongi Art Night will include the largest balloons ever exhibited at the event. For this edition of Roppongi Art Night, Murakami will be participating not just as an artist, but also as a curatorial producer who has selected artists such as Mr., Aya Takano, MADSAKI, Shin Murata, Yuta Hosokawa of READYMADE, and others to take on the challenge of the “Doraemon” motif through new works. Their artworks will be displayed at Roppongi Hills Arena, TOKYO MIDTOWN, and the National Art Center, Tokyo, and other locations, appearing as colorful Doraemon balloons that conjure a surreal atmosphere, creating a magical world. These highly anticipated artworks will finally be unveiled!

As a measure of caution against the spread of COVID-19 and to avoid overcrowding, this year’s event will not be an all-night affair. In addition to extending the duration of the event to 3 days, select exhibitions will open in advance, and there will also be opportunities for staggered viewings to alleviate crowds.



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

These highly anticipated artworks will finally be unveiled!

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 2022” Theme:

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

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 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.”

Message from Our Main Program Artist



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Roppongi Art Night was postponed three times. The first time was at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, then twice more due to the declarations of states of emergency in Tokyo. I suppose the fourth time is the charm, in this case, and after two and a half years, we are finally able to exhibit the balloons created as collaborations between Doraemon and 13 artists under my curation.

The COVID-19 crisis resulted in countless people harboring pent up emotions as a result of isolation, and the whole world moved even further towards a reliance on games and the internet. The chances for people to interact with Japanese contents, especially manga and anime, increased dramatically during this time, and I think as a result it deepened their appreciation for these genres.

Among them, Doraemon is an incredibly important content in Japan and Asia. The protagonist of the series is decidedly uncool and shy, and his earless cat-like robot companion helps him along, though the bashful kid's various problems are never fully resolved. But regardless, he would live and laugh along the way... I believe that this philosophy of life, which is diametrically opposite from "dreams come true," embodied within this work resonates deeply with the people of Asia now.

Just as Mickey Mouse is for America, Doraemon is an iconic character for Asia. This is why I have been collaborating with Doraemon as an emblem of Japan, and this time, I reached out to 13 artists in hopes of further developing this collaboration between Doraemon and Japanese artists.

I am hoping that we will be able to provide some augmented reality (AR) experiences at several locations as well. At any rate, please enjoy.

Takashi Murakami

Roppongi Art Night 2022 Takashi Murakami Main Program

Balloon artworks that rank among the largest ever will be exhibited at Roppongi Hills Arena and TOKYO MIDTOWN.

- Date and time: September 17 (Sat) – 19 (Mon/holiday)
- Venue: Roppongi Hills Arena, TOKYO MIDTOWN

<Work to be exhibited at Roppongi Hills Arena>



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<Work to be exhibited at TOKYO MIDTOWN>



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

At Roppongi Art Night 2022, 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.

- Date and time: September 17 (Sat) – 19 (Mon/holiday)
- Venue: Roppongi Hills Arena, TOKYO MIDTOWN, The National Art Center, Tokyo, Lapiross Roppongi

<Artworks Planned for Exhibit>

Mr.



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Aya Takano



Photo by Claire Dorn
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MADSAKI



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TENGAone



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Emi Kuraya



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ob



Photo by Hiroki Tadano
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Otani Workshop



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Chiho Aoshima



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<Artworks Planned for Exhibit>

Kasing Lung



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T9G & Shoko Nakazawa



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Shin Murata



Photo by Fusako Murata
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Yuta Hosokawa



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Roppongi Art Night 2022 Main Visual



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.

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<< Profile >>

Takashi Murakami

Born in Tokyo in 1962.

The originator and proponent of Superflat theory, which reconstructs Japanese traditional paintings and the origin of Japanese contemporary art through visual premises of anime and manga.

Murakami has created numerous characters including Miss Ko2 and Mr. DOB that reflect the otaku culture and presents them in the forms of intentionally kitsch sculptures and acutely two-dimensional paintings antithetical to the Western perspective techniques. Murakami's cultural theory based on subcultures not only deconstructs the highbrow/lowbrow hierarchy but critically illustrates the post-World War II Japanese psychology, establishing a discourse unique to Japan in the increasingly globalizing art scene. The artist continues to attract a wide-ranging audience beyond contemporary art through his multifaceted activities including his collaboration with Louis Vuitton, Kanye West and Drake and focuses on street culture and contemporary ceramics.

The final installment of his Superflat trilogy of curated exhibitions, Little Boy: The Arts of Japan's Exploding Subculture (New York, 2005), was awarded The Best Thematic Museum Show in New York by AICA that year.

His first retrospective, ©MURAKAMI (2007 - 2009) toured four cities in North America and Europe, starting with the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. He has since been holding major solo exhibitions around the world, including at the Palace of Versailles (2010), Al Riwaq Exhibition Hall (Doha, 2012), the Mori Art Museum (Tokyo, 2015), the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art (Moscow, 2017), and Tai Kwun Contemporary (Hong Kong, 2019).

In recent years, Murakami has taken on NFTs, releasing his "Murakami.Flowers" and "CLONE X," a collaborative project with RTFKT. He received a Special Achievement award at the Webby Awards in 2022. He has recently held his solo exhibition, An Arrow through History, at Gagosian in New York, with the two worlds of digital and the real as its theme.

In May of 2020, Roppongi Art Night was forced to cancel due to the spread of COVID-19, with the event repeatedly postponed in the time since. This year, we are especially excited that we will be able to present Roppongi Art Night 2022 from September 17 (Sat) through 19 (Mon/Holiday) over a 3-day period. While the event will not be an overnight format, you will still be able to enjoy art, film, and performance throughout the city of Roppongi from morning to night.

This year's theme is “Magical Adventure: Find Your Art of Wonder in the Town!” This concept was initially developed in the planning for 2020, but now in our current moment, the pandemic and war have expanded into global-scale issues, and people are seeking to travel to and experience another world through the magical power and imagination of art.

The main program of Roppongi Art Night 2022 features Takashi Murakami's long-awaited Doraemon-themed balloon artworks, as well as the Doraemon created by 12 artists under his curation. The Doraemon Gadgets that emerge from the character's magical pocket include the “Anywhere Door” that transports people to favorite places, and the “Timemachine” that transports people to favorite times. These gadgets have long entertained the hearts of children, but the tool that can enable us to freely traverse time and space is our ability, regardless of day or age, for anyone to dream. What kind of world will the Doraemon that these artists collaborated on invite us into?

In addition to the main program of Roppongi Art Night 2022, legendary conceptual artist Lawrence Weiner, along with KIMSOOJA and Michael Lin, well-known through international art festivals since the 1990s, will participate in the event. Sebastian Masuda will transform the area surrounding Roppongi Crossing using his distinctly colorful and cute aesthetic. This year again, numerous artists will welcome visitors to experience the magic with artworks and performances throughout Roppongi Hills, The National Art Center, Tokyo, and Tokyo Midtown, even expanding into the vacant spaces of IMOARAZAKA. We hope you'll look forward to it.



Photo by Akinori Ito

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

Overview of “Roppongi Art Night 2022”

- Official Title: Roppongi Art Night 2022
- 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 and 2021.
- Date: Sep 17 (Sat) – Sep 19 (Mon/holiday), 2022
*Select artworks are scheduled to be exhibited from September 3 (Sat).
- Venues: Roppongi Hills; Mori Art Museum; TOKYO MIDTOWN; 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/c/rantv_roppongiartnight
- Admission: Free *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 MIDTOWN; 21_21 DESIGN SIGHT; Mori Art Museum; Mori Building; Roppongi Shopping District Association]
- Support: Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan in the fiscal 2022
- 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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