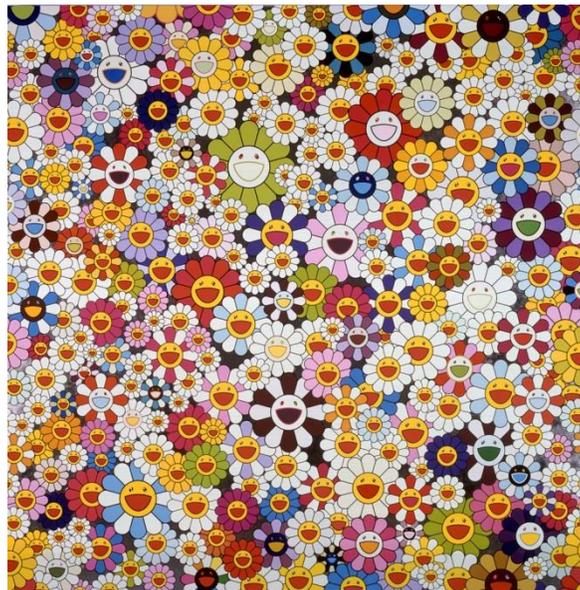


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## The Vancouver Art Gallery kicks off its spring exhibition season with international Superflat art icon Takashi Murakami



**November 22, 2017, Vancouver, BC** – Four new, thought-provoking exhibitions enliven the Vancouver Art Gallery spring exhibition season with artwork from across the globe. Engaging history and the contemporary moment, the Vancouver Art Gallery's spring lineup explores everything from the art of world renowned Japanese artist Takashi Murakami, historical and contemporary expressionist art, to the ever-present threats of nuclear power.

A major spring highlight to kick off the season is the first ever solo presentation of Takashi Murakami's work in Canada, without question one of the world's most acclaimed and sought after contemporary artists. ***Takashi Murakami: The Octopus Eats Its Own Leg*** is an extraordinary exhibition that traces Murakami's development as an artist over the course of three decades and draws attention to some of the major concepts and unique cultural conditions that have shaped his painting practice. Featuring fifty-five impressive paintings and sculptures, the exhibition offers a critical and serious meditation on the current state of Japanese society in the midst of a complex, global world. The exhibition will also feature a newly created five metre-tall sculpture as well as two multi-panel paintings created specially for the Vancouver Art Gallery exhibition.

The Vancouver Art Gallery will also feature the thematic exhibition **BOMBHEAD**, which explores the emergence and ongoing impact of the nuclear age as represented by artists and their art, offering a timely look at the ongoing proliferation of nuclear weapons in a period of growing instabilities in geopolitical power relations.

Additionally, two distinct, engaging exhibitions drawn from the collection of the McMaster Museum of Art in Hamilton, Ontario, will be on view. ***Living, Building, Thinking: art and expressionism*** uses the German Expressionist collection from McMaster Museum of Art to explore the development of expressionism in art from the early 19th century to present day.

And ***A Cultivating Journey: The Herman Levy Legacy*** presents five centuries of magnificent art from McMaster Museum of Art's Levy Collection and Bequest, including works by renowned artists such as Gustave Courbet, Camille Pissarro, Claude Monet and Vincent van Gogh. Herman Levy's gift to the McMaster Museum of Art is among the most important donations ever made to a university gallery in Canada. He donated his personal collection of 185 European historical and modern works to the Museum in 1984, and followed this with a substantial financial bequest specifically for art purchases—219 acquisitions were made.

## Spring Exhibitions

February 3, 2018 to May 6, 2018

**Takashi Murakami: The Octopus Eats Its Own Leg**

Media preview: 9:00 am, February 1, 2018



***Takashi Murakami: The Octopus Eats Its Own Leg*** is a major retrospective exhibition of the monumental paintings of Takashi Murakami, one of the world's most influential artists.

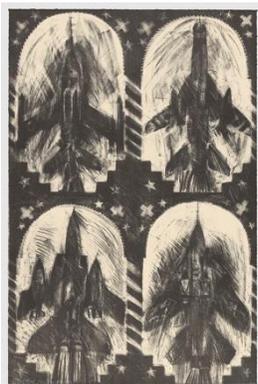
From his earliest work to new, never-before-seen paintings and selected sculptures, the fifty-five works in this exhibition reflect Murakami's exquisite level of craft, his insightful engagement with history and the consistent, universal themes that have guided his practice over the past three decades.

[Image: Takashi Murakami, *Klein's Pot A*, 1994-97, acrylic on canvas mounted on board in plexiglass box (optional), Colección Pérez Simón, Mexico, © 1994-97 Takashi Murakami/Kaikai Kiki Co., Ltd. All Rights Reserved. Photo: Yoshitaka Uchida]

March 3, 2018 to June 17, 2018

**BOMBHEAD**

Media preview: 9:00 am, March 1, 2018



Drawn primarily from the Vancouver Art Gallery's permanent collection, the exhibition is guest curated by John O'Brian, Professor Emeritus of Art History, Visual Art & Theory at the University of British Columbia. **BOMBHEAD** is a thematic exhibition that explores the emergence and ongoing impact of the nuclear age as represented by artists and their art. Strongly associated with obliteration and destruction, nuclear technologies have made a profound cultural and ecological impact since their emergence and proliferation beginning in the mid-20th century.

[Image: Carel Moiseiwitsch, *Untitled (Four Black Jets)*, 1992, lithograph on paper, Collection of the Vancouver Art Gallery, Gift of Mr. Milton Woensdregt]

March 3, 2018 to May 21, 2018

### **Living, Building, Thinking: art and expressionism**

Media preview: 9:00 am, March 1, 2018



***Living, Building, Thinking: art and expressionism*** uses the German Expressionist collection of the McMaster Museum of Art as the jumping off point to explore the development of expressionism in art from the early 19th century to the present day. The exhibition includes 100 works in all mediums ranging from 16th century European to contemporary Canadian works.

Artists featured include Max Beckmann, Joseph Beuys, Otto Dix, Hannah Hoch, Anselm Kiefer, Paula Modersohn-Becker, Edvard Munch, Sigmar Polke and others.

[Image: Käthe Kollwitz, *Brustbild einer Arbeiterfrau mit blauem Tuch* [Bust of a Working Class Woman With a Blue Shawl], 1903, colour lithograph on sturdy tan wove paper, Purchase, 1985, McMaster Museum of Art]

March 3, 2018 to May 21, 2018

### **A Cultivating Journey: The Herman Levy Legacy**

Media preview: 9:00 am, March 1, 2018



***A Cultivating Journey: The Herman Levy Legacy*** presents five centuries of magnificent art from McMaster Museum of Art's Levy Collection and Bequest, one of the most important donations ever made to a university gallery in Canada. *A Cultivating Journey* includes works by well-known artists such as Gustave Courbet, Camille Pissarro, Claude Monet and Vincent van Gogh, as well as works by a wide range of French, British, Japanese, German and Netherlandish artists.

[Image: Camille Pissarro, *Pommiers en Fleur*, 1870, oil on canvas, Gift of Herman Levy, Esq., O.B.E., 1984, McMaster Museum of Art]

Image (Top): Takashi Murakami, *Flowers, flowers, flowers*, 2010, acrylic and platinum leaf on canvas mounted on aluminum frame, Collection of the Chang family, Taiwan, © 2010 Takashi Murakami/Kaikai Kiki Co., Ltd. All Rights Reserved.

IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

**MEDIA CONTACT**

Justin Mah, Communications Specialist  
[jmah@vanartgallery.bc.ca](mailto:jmah@vanartgallery.bc.ca), Direct: 604-662-4722

**About the Vancouver Art Gallery**

Founded in 1931, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of North America's most respected and innovative visual arts institutions. The Gallery's ground-breaking exhibitions, extensive public programs and emphasis on advancing scholarship all focus on the historical and contemporary art of British Columbia and international centres, with special attention to the accomplishments of Indigenous artists and the art of the Asia Pacific region—through the Institute of Asian Art founded in 2014. The Gallery's programs also explore the impacts of images in the larger sphere of visual culture, design and architecture. [www.vanartgallery.bc.ca](http://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca)

The Vancouver Art Gallery is a not-for-profit organization supported by its members, individual donors, corporate funders, foundations, the City of Vancouver, the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council, and the Canada Council for the Arts.