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Takashi Murakami

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Art is the endless science that initially created since the existence of human being. It is an important ingredient of our civilization. Like eminent artist, they not only created artwork for appealing audience or showing how genius they are, but also made their country famous and special. Almost artist invented new patterns of art which ever occurred before to make their name remembered forever. Some artists were accused of weird type. The example of Andy Warhol, an American who invented a new evolution into art world called pop art¹. In Asia, there is one artist whose has a high target. Many people said he is Andy Warhol in Asian version. His name is Takashi Murakami. He is the famous artist from Japan which all of his works have an influence from Japanese art style. Although he is a well-known Asian artist, His reputation primary started in western. Murakami is apparently different from normal artists. He has eccentric and overstep ideas. The most notable renown about Murakami is his original endeavor blending of the commerce and art together contributing to a new art state in Japan by ignoring western critics.

Takashi Murakami is an influential modern artist who has an own style and conspicuous artworks. He was born in Tokyo² and came from middle class family. Fortunately, His mother supported him and took him to the exhibition about Japanese and Western art, so it would be a first encouragement to be an artist. Like many children in 60s, comics, gaming and western pop fascinated young Murakami. The

¹Wikipedia contributors. "Andy Warhol." *Wikipedia The Free Encyclopedia*. 2 February 2013. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andy_Warhol>

² Wikipedia contributors. "Takashi Murakami." *Wikipedia The Free Encyclopedia*. 2 February 2013. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Takashi_Murakami>

enchantments in childhood led him to follow dream, but eventually he attended in the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts³ and Music where it was not the place that he initially wants to study. In this university, he learned about Nihonga⁴, classical and traditional painting of Japanese. However he got Ph.D. in Nihonga, Murakami still has a high intention to follow what he took an interest in when young. He started career in art and began with fine arts media, painting and sculpture. Likewise, the two fiberglass sculptures made a huge attention to him. They are Hiropon and My Lonesome Cowboy⁵ which both made many critics sarcastic comments on because they obviously show the body and represent sexuality. Therefore, it made Japanese blocked his primary work that forced him to start art life in western. Murakami devotes himself for career since he does not have wife or child. Until now, he has two studios in New York and Japan.

All of Murakami oeuvres depend on anime and manga, Japanese animated productions. His paintings and sculptures emphasize on candy-colors, big-eyed figure. Honestly, engrossing in planes of color comes from his up set many years ago. When he was a freshman, there was a one student whom told him that he did not have a sense to use color. That reproach led him begin studying the fundamental of color. Studying turns into obsession. Consequently, Murakami invented a new art movement called superflat⁶. It used to mention to aesthetic of traditional Japanese art, culture and society. He made this movement distinct from western pattern. Due to inspiring form Superflat, Murakami created uncommon artworks like Flower Mantago, Mr. Pointy

³ Murakami Fan Page. "Takashi Murakami Biography." *Murakami Art Fan Blog*. 2 February 2013. <<http://www.takashimurakami.net/index.php?/site/biography/>>

⁴ Wikipedia contributors. "Nihonga." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 2 February 2013. <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nihonga>>

⁵ Lucia Davies "In picture, Takashi Murakami." *AnOther*. 2 February 2013 <http://www.anothermag.com/current/view/1202/Takashi_Murakami>

⁶ TakashiMurakami.com. "Takashi Murakami biography." *TakashiMurakami* 5 February 2013. <<http://www.takashimurakami.com/biography.php>>

and Kawai-Vacances Summer Vacation in the Kingdom of the Golden⁷. After his reputation about strange artwork increasing, Murakami was invited to exhibit his artworks at the palace of Versailles. It is a milestone in his life. As Murakami prediction, There were many French people who irritated with exhibition and many critics who criticized that artworks did not proper enough to show with their high art in the palace. Regardless of censures, He did not care about that but used them as a stimulation to make a new evolution in home country.

After his name widespread in western, Murakami came back to his hometown and contributed to a big change in Japanese art. Owing to dissatisfaction of art state in Japan, he invented an odd way to improve art state and promote his country. Normally, a painting on commercial goods was group as a low art, which can see much in Japan's art market such as toy, key chain, but Murakami did not agree with this truth. He proved this by using an advertisement as a way by transferring art into commercial good in daily life. He produced many kinds of commodities form posters to a limited edition of luxury goods, a series of handbags for Louis Vuitton according to invitation form Marc Jacob⁸, a creative director of Louis Vuitton. He painted Superflat on bags and set up a Louis Vuitton shop at his exhibition to make audiences confuse about the definition of art. He believed that when his anime and manga were painted in luxury goods, which people imagined as a precious thing, it would vanish the gap between art and business. It would lead to Japan's new art state. As a result, this performance caused western critics dissatisfaction. Anyway, Murakami did not attend to ridiculous criticisms since Japanese can accept his behavior. He thought that the definition of art put up with what people consider art should be, but he believe that

⁷ Benoit Tessier and Christophe Ena. "Takashi Murakami at the palace of Versailles." *Guardian* 5 February 2013 < <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/gallery/2010/sep/10/takashi-murakami-palace-versailles#/?picture=366593003&index=1>>

⁸ Wikipedia contributors. "Takashi Murakami." *Wikipedia The Free Encyclopedia*. 6 February 2013. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Takashi_Murakami>

the true meaning of art is about the substance of art production. People may think he is a business artist who creates work for money. Actually, money likes a prize for his hard working. His artwork is worth than money when compare with his intention since he would like to make his art survive and precious for a long time.

It is clear that Murakami is a conservative artist whose has a high intention to rise up art state in his country by originating a weird method that is a fusion of commerce and art into goods. Although he was commented by a group of highly standard art, he never uses this to cut his willing. Murakami positions himself as a new kind of contemporary art in the 20s. Many people suspect that he may be insane but cannot refuse that he is a great artist in this age and has an excellent creativity. Likewise, his creativity causes many advantages to japan and inspire young artists. Someone may think an outstanding artwork or a big evolution is not put up with how genius of creator, but may rely on how brave to start and madness of him like a prominent contemporary artist Takashi Murakami.