

## Risa Murakami



### **A Poetics of Stillness: Reflections on Nature in Risa Murakami's Work**

In an era increasingly defined by digital acceleration and environmental disconnection, the work of Risa Murakami offers a quiet, meditative counterpoint—an invitation to pause, reflect, and remember our fundamental bond with the natural world. Her practice draws deeply from the ancient Japanese belief that all things in nature possess a soul, a sensibility that permeates her visual language with reverence and grace.

At the heart of her work lies a deceptively simple motif: the surface of water. This liminal space, ever-shifting and reflective, serves as both subject and metaphor. Under her gaze, water becomes a mirror—not only for the external world but also for the subtle undercurrents of human emotion. Each surface, each ripple, carries the weight of transience, inviting the viewer into a space where time stretches and thought slows.

The artist's engagement with seasonal and temporal change is especially poignant. Autumn leaves gliding across water speak not merely of nature's cycles, but of the beauty of impermanence—the fleeting brilliance of life at its end, the quiet return to the earth, the promise of renewal. In this way, her work echoes the principles of *wabi-sabi*: the aesthetic acceptance of imperfection and ephemerality.

Rather than imposing meaning, her pieces allow for a contemplative stillness. Their minimalism is not emptiness, but fullness held in restraint—a distilled emotion, a memory suspended. Through a restrained palette and delicate compositions, she resists spectacle in favor of intimacy, drawing the viewer into a deeply personal experience of nature as both external and internal landscape.

## LEE & BAE

What makes her work resonate is its humility. It does not shout; it listens. It does not instruct; it invites. And in doing so, it reminds us that nature is not something outside of ourselves, but something we are profoundly a part of. Her images ask us to feel, to notice, and to remember—to return to the essential.

In an age of noise, Risa Murakami offers a rare gift: the aesthetics of silence.

### **Risa Murakami 村上 里沙 (Kanagawa, Japan, b. 1971)**

#### ■ **Educations**

The Art Institute of Pittsburgh

#### ■ **Selected Exhibition**

2024 Exhibition at Art Fair VOLTA BASEL 2024 in Basel

Exhibition at Art Fair SCOPE Miami Beach 2024 in Miami Beach

2023 "Risa Murakami Japanese-style painting Exhibition" at Carrousel de Louvre in Paris

"Risa Murakami Japanese-style painting Exhibition" at IMPERIAL HOTEL Tower  
Tokyo

2022 Collaboration Exhibition THE RITZ-CARLTON Tokyo × RISA MURAKAMI

2021 Collaboration Exhibition Tokyo American Club × RISA MURAKAMI Collaboration  
Exhibition AREA Tokyo × RISA MURAKAMI

2020 May18th-23rd "Risa Murakami Japanese-style painting Exhibition" at Gallery of  
Hikari Ginza October 23rd-November 3rd Collaboration Exhibition TORY BURCH ×  
RISA MURAKAMI at Ginza

2017 February 20th-25th "Risa Murakami Japanese-style painting Exhibition" at Gallery of  
Hikari Ginza

2012 The 67th Spring Exhibition of the Japan Art Institute INTEN

The 97th Exhibition of the Japan Art Institute INTEN

The 30th Ueno Royal Museum Grand Prize Exhibition

1997 The 52nd Spring Exhibition of the Japan Art Institute INTEN