New York / Berlin, February 12, 2013—artnet Auctions is proud to announce its inaugural Contemporary Japanese Art sale, an auction of over 40 works by an exciting range of emerging to established Contemporary Japanese artists, including Minol Araki, Nobuyoshi Araki, Koichi Enomoto, Mikasi Kawai, Yayoi Kusama, Daido Moriyama, Mr., Takashi Murakami, Hideaki Kawashima, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Yoshitomo Nara, and Aya Takano. Works in the sale have estimates ranging from US$2,000 to 60,000.

The Contemporary Japanese Art sale is led by several iconic works from pioneers of the ‘Super-Flat’ Japanese movement, a stylistic expression that conflates Pop Art with Japanese manga and anime. Untitled (1996), an exuberant oil painting of a young girl by Mr. (Japanese, b.1969), is painted in a
palette of brilliant orange and blue, and estimated at US$25,000 to 30,000. Takashi Murakami (Japanese, b.1962) also has several important works in the auction, including his iconic sculptural work, Coco (Project K02) (1999), estimated at US$20,000 to 25,000. The Contemporary Japanese Art sale also includes Ablution (2008), one of the finest examples of the quietly Surreal Figurative paintings by Hideaki Kawashima (Japanese, b.1969). This auction marks the first time this piece has been sold on the secondary market. Estimated at US$11,000 to 14,000, this work, and two others from the artist, all come to the sale from a top private collection in Germany.

Himalayas, blue sheep, snow tiger, wolf, people who live there (2003) is a major painting by Aya Takano (Japanese, b.1976), and is one of her largest and most visually meditative works to date. In this exciting piece, estimated at US$40,000 to 60,000, Takano expresses harmony amongst all creatures, as the title underscores; the painting depicts wild animals and humans peacefully occupying a tranquil blue mountainside. Another highlight is (Infinity Nets-Fresh Verdure) (1990), a stunning jade green and white Abstract painting by Yayoi Kusama (Japanese, b.1929). The work, which is based on the artist’s iconic Infinity Nets pattern, is estimated at US$35,000 to 45,000.

A diverse selection of photographs is also offered in the Contemporary Japanese Art sale, led by Untitled (Hawaii Series) (c. 2007), a monumental, unique black-and-white photograph by Daido Moriyama (Japanese, b.1938). This museum-level work, estimated at US$25,000 to 35,000, comes to the sale from a private collection in Japan, and offers collectors a rare opportunity to acquire a work by Moriyama at this scale and theme. Important photographs by Nobuyoshi Araki, Yoshiyuki Kohei, Izima Kaoru, Yasumasa Morimura, and Hiroshi Sugimoto are also offered, with estimates ranging from US$2,000 to 35,000.

The sale also includes an exciting selection of prints and multiples, such as Cosmic Girls (Eyes Opened/Eyes Closed) (2008), a charming pair of color lithographs by Yoshimoto Nara, estimated at US$2,000 to 3,000. Additional prints and multiples by artists including Hiro Ando, Chiho Aoshima, Yayoi Kusama, and Takashi Murakami round out the sale.

The Contemporary Japanese Art Sale is live on artnet Auctions from February 12 through 22, 2012, and on view here.

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With 24/7 worldwide bidding, artnet Auctions is the world’s first online auction platform to buy and sell Modern and Contemporary paintings, prints, photographs, sculptures, and more. artnet has been online since 1995, and is host to approximately 2 million visitors each month. Through the artnet Price Database of all auction sales results worldwide since 1985 and artnet Galleries, artnet is the leading online resource for the international art market.