artnet Auctions Offers Rare Sculpture by Takashi Murakami in One of Its Largest Sales to Date

*Post-War & Contemporary Art: The Premier Sale*

is live for bidding now through May 16

New York, May 3, 2018—artnet Auctions is pleased to offer a unique sculpture by Japanese artist Takashi Murakami in its current auction, *Post-War & Contemporary Art: The Premier Sale*. Live for bidding now through May 16, this major auction presents the highest total value of artworks ever listed in a single sale on the online platform.

Completed in 2010, *Ponchi-Kun Gold* is an aluminum sculpture covered in gold leaf and measuring over three feet tall. The work depicts two of the original creatures frequently seen throughout Murakami’s work, which combines the aesthetics of Japan’s pop culture with the style of classical Japanese art. Like
much of the artist's oeuvre, this work merges light-hearted subject matter with the gravity of a more formal approach.

"By covering the sculpture in gold leaf, Murakami glorifies the seemingly naïve character depicted, and connects the superficial with the profound, which is what he attempts to achieve throughout his art," explains Nina Lippman, artnet Auctions' senior specialist of contemporary Asian art.

With consistent sales of the artist's work, artnet Auctions has proven to attract a passionate audience for Murakami's art. Notably, the artist's 2003 *Eye Love SUPERFLAT* sold for $198,000 (with Buyer's Premium) last February.

This auction comes at an important moment for the artist, following the recent opening of his blockbuster solo show at Galerie Perrotin and coinciding with his participation in the first-ever themed section at Frieze New York, where Murakami's pieces will be included in a memorial exhibit for the late art dealer Hudson.

Offered alongside Murakami's *Ponchi-Kun Gold in Post-War & Contemporary Art: The Premier Sale* are exceptional works by celebrated artists Cindy Sherman, Sol LeWitt, Eric Fischl, Mike Kelley, Sue Williams, Jannis Kounellis, Marilyn Minter, Joe Bradley, Martin Kippenberger, and Günther Förg, among others. An exhibition of highlights from the auction will be on view in artnet's Tribeca headquarters for the duration of the sale. Viewings of the exhibit are available by appointment.
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