



- **Media Title**
  - *"Times Nature" 2018*
  - **Media Type**
  - Acrylic on canvas
  - **Access Date**
  - December 1, 2020
-

The next image that I have chosen to elaborate on for my visual portfolio actually differs a lot from the other images in the sense that it is much more modern. This was created by the Japanese artist that goes by the name of Takashi Murakami. One fact that I would like to point out is that artists like him are often overlooked because their work is not seen as “complex” or “detailed.” In all reality, his work consists of much more than just the image that I have provided but either way, it still takes imagination, dedication, and artistic sense to be able to design something so unique. It even gives the audience a very specific outlook on the way that Japanese art had modernized into something completely different. That is the main reason that I decided to choose this image. The colors in this image are extremely bright yet solid at the same time and I immediately associated that with color-blocking, which is actually a way in which certain fashion industries have decided to style and design their clothes. This is a much more modern way of design that has emerged in fashion between the late 1970s through present day and so the fact that I have been able to associate it with Murakami’s work is interesting. It might have not been intentional at all to be related with one another but an audience can possibly remember a piece by also making that random connection. I will be analysing this image a little further with the use of content analysis. The reason that I have chosen to utilize this is because of the form that the image was created. In other words, the image contains big blocks of color but it still contains enough themes in its content. The much more obvious theme that can be seen is the rainbow aspect of the image. That is, the spectrum that is surrounding the character that Murakami has created. The spectrum gives it a very out of the ordinary take since the spectrum is not associated with anything bad nor good. A rainbow for example is associated with happiness, but perhaps someone else might interpret it as what came before, which is just gloomy rain. In fact, if it were not for the smile, the audience might not know how to feel emotionally about this

image, but the solid colors would definitely still capture their attention. Another thing that I would like to point out is the shape of the character that he made because to me, it can easily be compared to the shape of a simple flower, when flowers obviously do not come with all of these colors. This is what gives the image a way more modern feel to it because it attracts the eyes of the younger audience that have been recognized as appreciating more cartoonish characteristics in any and all types of art. Graffiti is an example of this, because it is appealing for its simplicity, yet it always has some sort of significance to it in the end. I say that this appeals to the younger audience because I myself have noticed his work being used in very recent musical artists that a lot of people are listening to right now. The interesting part about this is that I have seen it particularly as the album cover art for someone who is not even Japanese, but a Columbian artist that goes by the name of J Balvin. This gives the sense of the influence that modern Japanese art, just like older pieces of art in the periods before, have had an influence in places such as the Western culture, where artists like J Balvin are widely recognized in the huge Hispanic/ Latino culture. Something else that I can take away from this image by analysing in the form of content analysis is the simplicity of the arrows that are located in all four corners of the image. They seem to stand out because they are a solid black color. What we can take away from this as an audience is that Muramaki finds these original ways to add into a piece without completely adding another style, yet it seems like it is another style because of the way that it stands out. One source that I would like to reference is ArteTrama, which is a website that has an article on Murakami and how he has influenced Japanese modern art in such an impactful way that he has even created a new term of pop art in the Japanese culture. Referencing even further that article, they actually stated that, ‘.....in an aesthetical level, this concept has always been present throughout Japanese art history. The Japanese art historian Nobuo Tsuji, in his book “The lineage

of eccentricity” (1970) talks about a number of artists with expressionist trends that belong to the Edo period (1625 – 1868) and about creators of eccentric expressionist images from which Murakami himself recalls an aesthetic inheritance that gives room to contemporary visual expression forms such as manga.” This just says that in Japanese art, there were so many complex forms of art, but they all connect with each other in the sense that they follow one certain aspect through all the periods. This to me is an interesting way to look at it because you may not seem the resemblance at first look, but once you take in the fact that an older piece of art was made to influence one that comes much later in modern art, they are somehow connected.

The country of Japan has had a great influence on the design and thoughtfulness of representation for many sorts of American media. It includes television shows, animations, music, and a lot of modern art that we even like seeing in this class. I mention this because I knew for a fact that I wanted to really concentrate on some interesting images for the modern part of the visual portfolio. Even though they have had quite an existential impact on the way we visualize a lot of our everyday aspects related to art and media, the impact it's had on Japan itself is a much greater one and I for one have had the chance to appreciate that by being a part of this class. Dating back into the earliest time periods of Japan, their history is very much represented in the artwork of those corresponding to each period. In connection, they emit an energy related to a lot of historical events which is why it is important to analyse them very well in this project by using the correct form of analysis. It comes with a constant demand for a different audience that can express their own personal insights of the themes or symbolism that these pieces might have within them, which is why I chose the images that I chose for the entire class to see in my presentation. Sure the creator, whether it be a director, painter, or cartoonist, can have a concrete idea of the themes or subjects that they want to focus on in their artwork, but it is the change in audience that gives it that extraordinary touch. In other words, it is necessary to present these pieces because without it, the feedback would not follow up on the comprehension of the important topics represented, which in my case was spirituality, woman of Japan and even judgement in the visual arts entirely. These symbols and interpretations were easily classified depending on the media I used. For the film that I chose I used semiotics in film, and for the more modern image, I chose content analysis because it was more suitable to the description of the simple image. The first two images I chose, I really wanted to compare them because I felt that they were related to one another, but they still differed in ways that needed further

explanation. That is why I chose comparative analysis for both of them. In the focal point for this visual portfolio, you will see a description and exploration of these four individual Japanese images in the order of their time period and their analysis.