

Galerie im Tempelhof Museum
5 September 2025 – 11 January 2026

Wataru Murakami

Dispersion



Untitled (JAX 01, Driyah), 2025
© Wataru Murakami

In the exhibition “Dispersion,” artist Wataru Murakami, who was born in Japan and grew up in Canada and the US, engages with the themes of belonging and the search for identity. The title refers to a socio-cultural scattering that Murakami experienced himself. This dispersion is accompanied by an inner, emotional turmoil. The works reflect a unique, hybrid cultural identity—one that often arises in people who grow up in a different cultural setting than their parents. Based on his personal life and cultural history, Murakami searches for an answer to the frequently asked question: “Where are you from?”

Murakami photographs deserted places, barely noticeable details, and traces of movement. Using empty cityscapes, the artist navigates between memory and the present by returning to the places that once signified home. Unnoticed details come to the fore, allowing him to observe and attempt to decipher familiar scenarios from a distance.

Only in a second moment does Murakami approach his images again. In addition to the specific form of seeing expressed in his photographs, visual interventions such as overpainting and fragmentation lie at the core of his artistic exploration. Through these interventions, Murakami hyperbolizes his sensations and feelings of scatteredness. He arrives at his images in a physical, almost meditative way. By deliberately hiding or highlighting certain elements of the image, he shows that perception is not neutral. Rather, it is shaped by experience, memory, and cultural influences. When Murakami edits the same photo multiple times, each new version serves to reveal another layer of his conditioned perception. Like a visual diary, his editing documents his personal search for what is hidden in that which is visible.

In “Dispersion,” Wataru Murakami explores the longing to arrive at a clear definition of his sense of self—as an individual and as an artist—while also acknowledging that it is impossible to experience the world in a way that is free from inherent conditioning. This photographic pursuit points to the desire for belonging in an increasingly fragmented world.

Press release
August 2025

Exhibition
5 September 2025 –
11 January 2026

Opening
Thursday, 4 September
7 pm
Introduction
Rossella Scrascia,
art historian and
curator of the exhibition

Artist Talk
Wataru Murakami
in conversation with
Rossella Scrascia
Saturday, 22 November 2025
4 PM

Address
Galerie im
Tempelhof Museum
Alt-Mariendorf 43
12107 Berlin
Phone 90277-6964
www.hausamkleistpark.de

Free admission
No barrier-free access
Mon closed
Tue-Sun 1-6 pm
Thu from 10 am

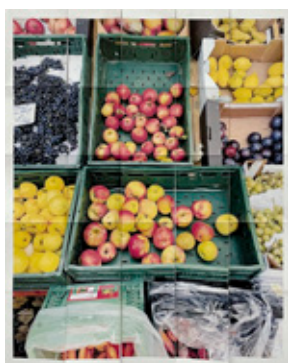
Presscontact and
Press photos
Phone +49 (30) 90277-6964
[hausamkleistpark@](mailto:hausamkleistpark@ba-ts.berlin.de)
ba-ts.berlin.de

An exhibition of
the Department of Art,
Culture, Museums
Tempelhof-Schöneberg.
The project is funded by the
KoGa-Fonds

Wataru Murakami (born in Matsuyama, Japan, in 1983) has been living and working in Berlin since 2017. After studying humanities at Sophia University in Tokyo, he studied photography and media art at the Karlsruhe University of Arts and Design. His works have been shown in numerous international exhibitions, most recently at the Ehime Museum of Art (2025) and the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum in Japan (2023), as well as at the Kunststiftung Baden-Württemberg in Stuttgart (2019). He has received numerous awards and scholarships, including the 2023 photography scholarship from Haus am Kleistpark, the INITIAL special scholarship from the Berlin Academy of Arts (2021), and the POLA Art Foundation scholarship.



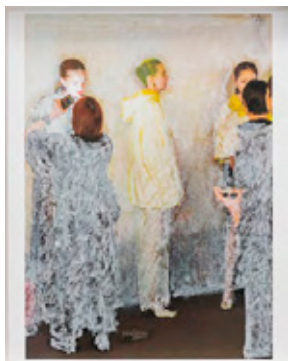
Untitled (JAX 01, Diriyah), 2025
© Wataru Murakami



Baskets of Fruits, 2023
© Wataru Murakami
Inkjet print on DIN A4 recycled paper
(80g), cut and glued together,
50 × 40 cm



Still Life (Ariake, Tokio, Japan),
2021 - 2024
© Wataru Murakami
Pastel crayons and watercolor pen-
cils on inkjet print, 24 × 30 cm



Untitled (Backstage - PFW W SS 24),
2023-2025
© Wataru Murakami
Handcolored print