

EDEN ROCK GALLERY, GALERIE PERROTIN AND ART SAINT BARTH PRESENT

# KAWS

## PERMANENT VACATION

EXHIBITION FROM 26 NOVEMBER - 25 DECEMBER 2014 | OPENING FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28TH 2014, 6PM - 9PM

**EDEN ROCK GALLERY**, from its new location on top of the iconic hotel Eden Rock - St Barths, along with **ART SAINT BARTH**, promoting the island as an international art destination, invite the prestigious **GALERIE PERROTIN** to exhibit the work of famed Brooklyn-based artist **KAWS**.

**KAWS**'s work is immediately recognizable in its transformation of iconic pop culture characters, turning them into thought-provoking works of art. His work reimagines popular cartoon characters using a visual language that functions paradoxically within the seemingly antagonistic traditions of Pop art and Geometric Abstraction, while brilliantly revitalizing the fields of both figuration and abstraction.

**KAWS**, having frequently vacationed in Saint Barthélemy for many years, titled this show with a biting sense of humor: *PERMANENT VACATION*. This is also the title of his latest dolphin-shaped painting in which borders and depth become irrelevant. The artist utilizes his unique sense of color in a bold and saturated palette combined with increasingly fragmented close-ups of streamlined Pop Art iconography.

Paintings from the artist's new black and white series *MAN'S BEST FRIEND* will also be shown in the exhibition. The series presents variations on small details of Charles M. Schulz's iconic drawings of characters from his *Peanuts* series. Original *Peanuts* comic strips appeared in American and international newspapers every day from 1950 until Schulz's death in 2000, establishing the characters as significant figures in the American pop cultural vernacular for generations. Though the *Peanuts* characters are blown up to the point where they are nearly unrecognizable, **KAWS** leaves just enough information for us to identify his subjects, underscoring the ubiquity of these figures and the power of repetition in enabling images to enter our cultural memory.



KAWS "PERMANENT VACATION" 2014, Acrylic on canvas, 72 x 52 inches, Unique, Courtesy Galerie Perrotin



**KAWS** was born in Jersey City, New Jersey in 1974 and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the School of Visual Arts in New York City in 1996. He lives in Brooklyn, New York. **KAWS**' work have been exhibited in numerous museums including the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Fort Worth, TX (2011 and forthcoming in 2016); Centro de Arte Contemporáneo, Málaga, Spain (2014); Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, KS (2013); Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA (2013); High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA (2011 and 2012); Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT (2010 and 2011); and MU Art Foundation, Eindhoven, Netherlands (2002). **KAWS** has been included in thematic exhibitions such as *Art in the Streets*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA (2011); *The Reflected Gaze - Self Portraiture Today*, Torrance Art Museum, Torrance, CA (2010); *Plastic Culture*, Harris Museum and Art Gallery, Preston, UK (2010); and *Beautiful Losers*, Le Tri Postal, Lille, France; Palazzo dell'Arte, Milan, Italy; USF Contemporary Art Museum, Tampa, FL; Contemporary Museum, Baltimore, MD; Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA; Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA; and Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, OH (2004). **KAWS** is a current nominee for the Smithsonian American Art Museum's James Dickie Contemporary Artist Prize.

Founded in 1989, **GALERIE PERROTIN** has opened 14 different spaces in 25 years, with the aim of continuing to offer increasingly stimulating environments to its artists. Adding to his three gallery spaces in the Marais district of Paris (inaugurated in 2005 & extended in 2007 & 2010), a new Paris showroom of 700 m<sup>2</sup>, la Salle de Bal, up the street, in a former Ballroom at the Hôtel d'Ecqueville called "du Grand Veneur", a 17th century Hôtel Particulier, opened in May 2014 with the inaugural exhibition «G I R L» curated by Pharrell Williams. The total of the Parisian spaces are now at least of 2000 sq. meters. The gallery opened in May 2012 in Hong Kong on the 17th floor of 50 Connaught Road Central (650m<sup>2</sup>), which overlooks Victoria Harbour Bay and in September 2013 in New York at 909 Madison Avenue (400 m<sup>2</sup>) in the former 1932 Bank of New York building, an historic landmark on Manhattan's Upper East Side. Galerie Perrotin participates in about 10 art fairs each year including: Art Basel (Hong Kong, Miami, Basel), Frieze (London, New York), FIAC (Paris), Art Stage (Singapore), Art Taipei, etc.

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