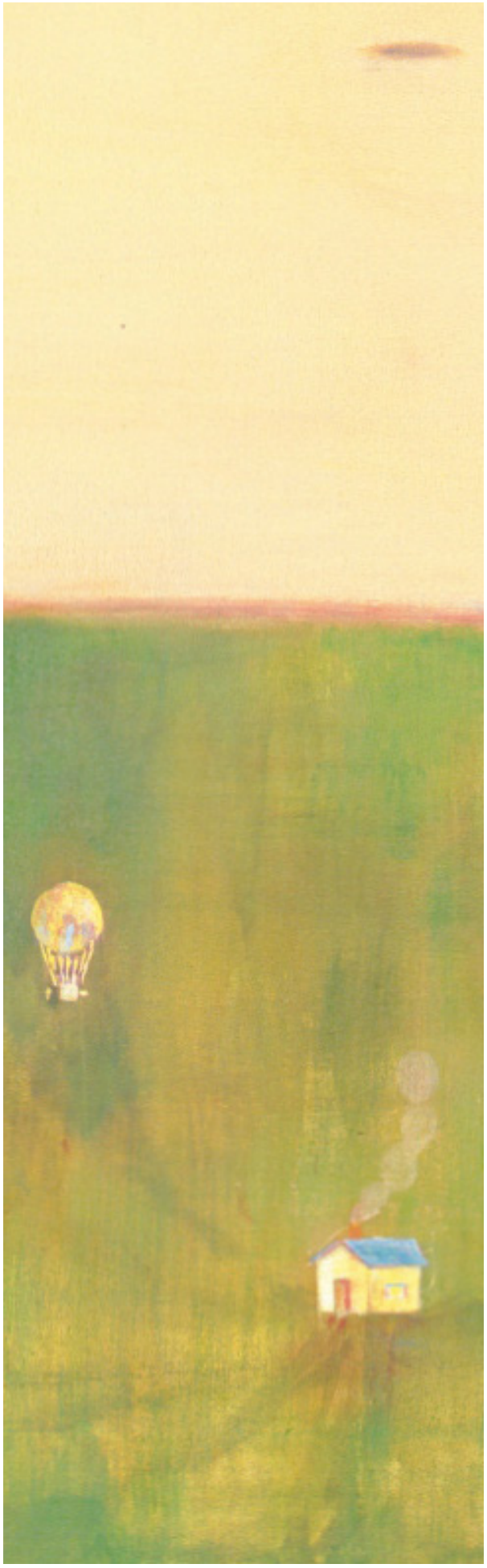
Yoshitomo Nara in collaboration with Hiroshi Sugito, Untitled, 2004



ARTIST
Yoshitomo Nara (b.1959) in collaboration with Hiroshi Sugito (b. 1970)

TITLE
Untitled

MEDIUM
Acryic on canvas

DATE
2004

SIZE
90 5/8 x 102 3/8 in : 230.4 x 260.0 cm

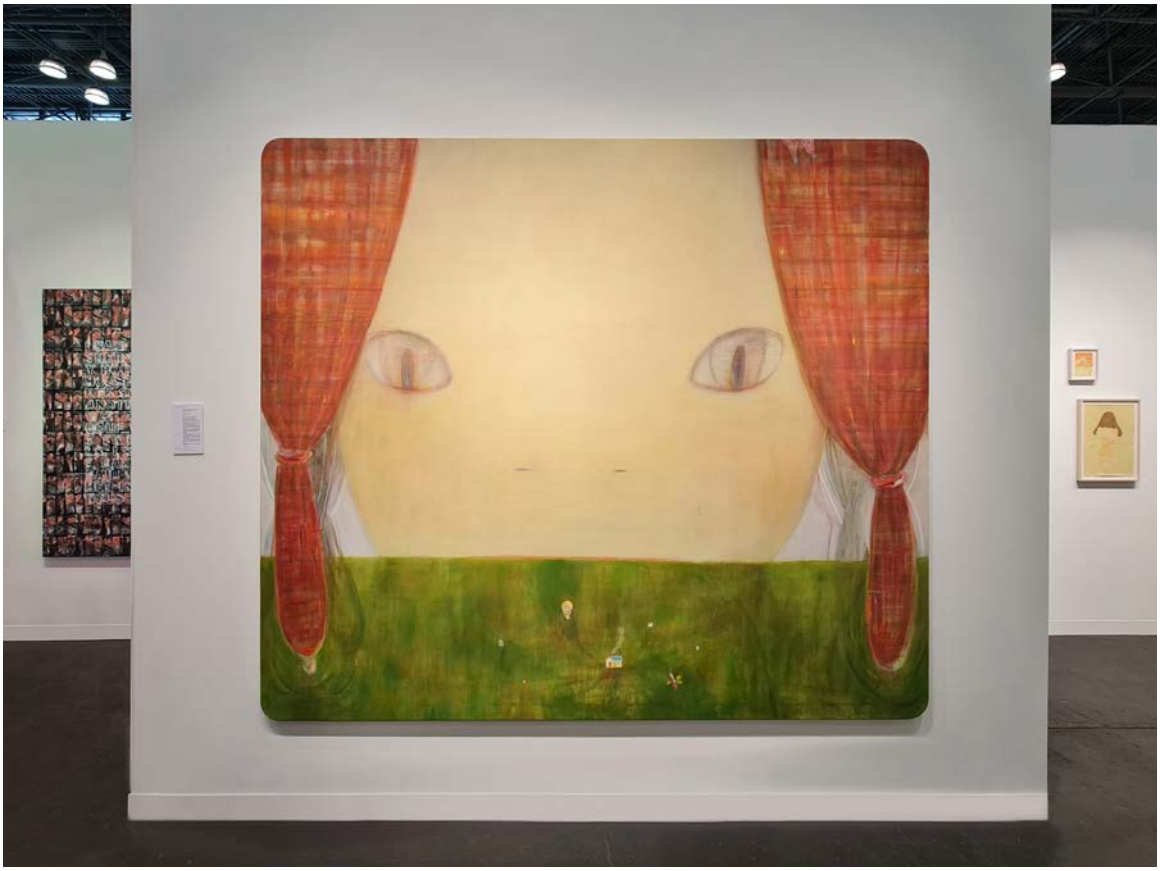
PROVENANCE
Galerie Zink & Gegner, Munich
Olbricht Collection, Essen and Berlin
Phillips London, their sale, Mar 10th 2017, lot 121
Private Collection (acquired from the above)

EXHIBITED
Munich, Pinakothek der Moderne, *Yoshimoto Nara & Hiroshi Sugito: Over the Rainbow*, 11 Nov 2004 - 13 Feb 2005, illustrated in the exhibition catalogue p. 33
Düsseldorf, K21 Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, *Yoshimoto Nara & Hiroshi Sugito: Over the Rainbow*, 12 Mar - 29 May 2005

LITERATURE
Bijutsu Shuppan Sha, *Yoshitomo Nara: The Complete Works Volume 1 - Paintings, Sculptures, Editions, Photographs*, Tokyo, Japan, 2011, p.PC-2004-003, illus. p.221
The Yoshitomo Nara Foundation, *Yoshitomo Nara: The Works*, Online Catalogue Raisonné, no. YNF3801, BSS no. PC-2004-003

REGISTRATION
This work is included in the Yoshitomo Nara online Catalogue Raisonné under no. YNF3801

REFERENCE
AC25-18



Yoshitomo Nara / Hiroshi Sugito

Yoshitomo Nara and Hiroshi Sugito met in 1986, when Sugito was a student under Nara. Both explored similar thematic concerns around childhood and the confluence of East and West.

The "Over the Rainbow" collaboration between the artists resulted in a series of paintings and drawings from their three-month residency in Vienna in the summer of 2004, leading to a joint exhibition and a published book in November 2004. The project was inspired by the 1939 film The Wizard of Oz, blending Nara's distinctive figures with Sugito's ethereal landscapes and surreal compositions. *Untitled*, 2004, forms part of this series.

Yoshitomo Nara

Yoshitomo Nara is a Japanese artist who lives and works in Tokyo. He produces paintings, drawings and sculpture which are cartoon-like in appearance, but contain a deep and often disquieting beauty. His work first came to attention in Japan in the 1990s and was almost immediately noticed by several international curators and critics who were also intrigued by the work of his colleague Takashi Murakami. Whereas Murakami's works are wantonly hard-edged and super-flat though, Nara's are painterly and poignant.

The large-eyed children who often appear in Nara's pictures may at first appear to be cute or vulnerable are however, upon closer inspection, subverted in some way. Some have their hands behind their backs and stare defiantly, some openly brandish weapons, some swear. Nara explains that his children, though, are 'among other, bigger, bad people all around them, who are holding bigger knives'.

Manga and animé are both obvious influences on Nara's work, however so is punk rock. By juxtaposing the innocent child with a suggestion of evil intent, and referencing anarchic music, Nara reacts to Japan's rigid social conventions.

Nara's work has been shown in a great many exhibitions in galleries and institutions worldwide, including in the 2020s alone:

"YOSHITOMO NARA. ALL MY LITTLE WORDS," The Albertina Modern, Vienna (Austria), 2023

"Yoshitomo Nara: Reach Out to the Moon, Even If We Can't," The Art Gallery of Western Australia, 2023

"Yoshitomo Nara: I Forgot Their Names and Often Can't Remember Their Faces but Remember Their Voices Well," Dallas Contemporary (USA), 2021

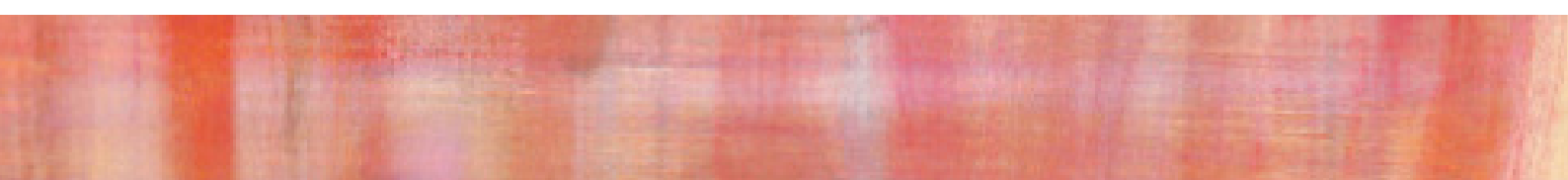
"Yoshitomo Nara," Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts (Taipei, Taiwan); Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts (Taiwan); Tainan Art Museum (Taiwan), 2021

"Though no one may notice, the world knows all that you have seen," 13 stores in Sapporo and Otaru (Hokkaido, Japan), 2021

"Love From the Sea," A vacant store at Yanagawa St. in Otaru (Hokkaido, Japan), 2021 (as a event of URA-OTARU Baza-Art)

"Yoshitomo Nara: Pinacoteca," Pace Gallery, London (UK), 2021

"Yoshitomo Nara," Los Angeles County Museum of Art (USA); Yuz Museum Shanghai (China), 2021–23



ARCHEUS / POST-MODERN
www.archeus.com

All enquiries:
Brian Balfour-Oatts
brian@archeus.com
US: 1-212-652-1665
UK: +44 (0)7979 695079