



Gallery Guide  
Contemporary Art  
Museum St. Louis



January 24–  
April 27, 2014  
On view every night,  
dusk–midnight

# Takeshi Murata

## Melter 2

Coinciding with the tenth anniversary of CAM's building in 2013, *Street Views* is a two-part series of large-scale video works projected onto CAM's Washington Boulevard facade. Literally turning the museum inside-out, *Street Views* transforms the building's surface into a gallery and provides a new perspective on the structure.

For CAM's second installment of the series, Takeshi Murata presents his animation *Melter 2*. Over the last decade, Murata has received critical acclaim for videos involving hand-rendered animations of fluidly morphing shapes and painterly abstractions of hacked digital code. Murata often appropriates imagery from such diverse sources as Japanese commercials and the long-running television game show *The Price Is Right*. Recently, he has incorporated stock photography and personally significant objects and locations—like his studio in upstate New York—into computer-generated, 3D-modeled photographs and videos. Murata's sophisticated technical work results in new forms that are at once familiar and uncanny.

First created in 2003 and a key example of recent new media art, *Melter 2* has been reconfigured from its original version to fit CAM's 62-by-18-foot metal facade. In the video, various shapes—which recall such organic forms as flowers, mountains, and waves—undulate and melt into one another, referencing nature, psychedelia, and early computer graphics. Projected at a larger-than-life scale, the work reinforces art's power to transform settings and situations, creating a dynamic, colorful space for visitors and the surrounding neighborhood alike.

**Takeshi Murata** (b. 1974, Chicago) lives and works in Saugerties, New York. His work has been included in solo and group shows at the Museum of Arts and Design, New York; the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; White Columns, New York; Palazzo Delle Esposizioni, Rome, Italy; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Bergen Kunsthall, Bergen, Norway; Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, WA; The New Museum, New York; Mattress Factory, Pittsburgh, PA; Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China; and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco; among many others. Murata holds a BFA in Film/Video/Animation from the Rhode Island School of Design.

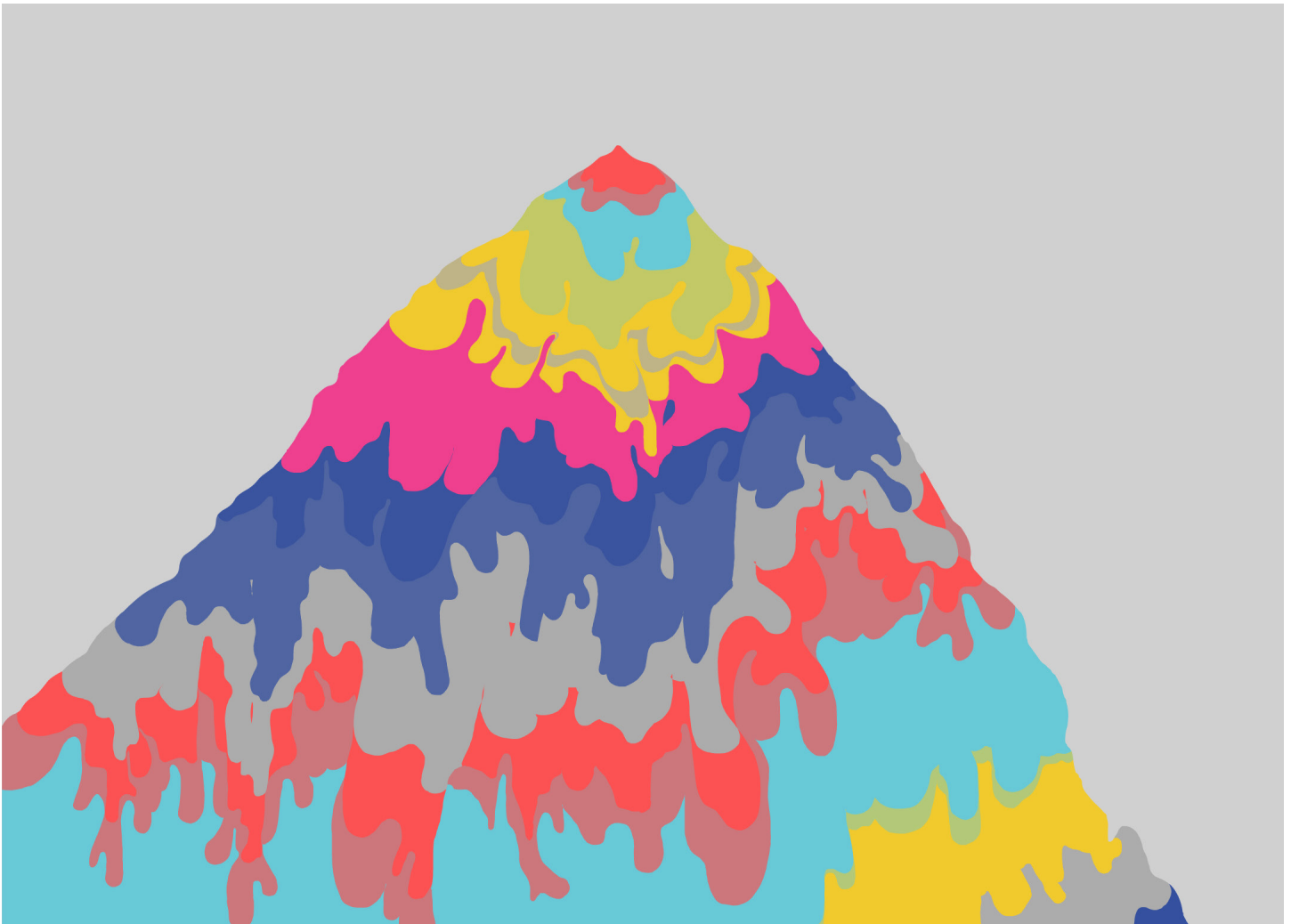
*Takeshi Murata: Melter 2* is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Kelly Shindler, Associate Curator.

*Street Views* is made possible with support from the Regional Arts Commission. Special thanks to the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts.



### Audio Tour

Download the CAM app at [camstl.org/app](http://camstl.org/app) or ask for an iPod at the front desk to hear directly from the artist and curator on the audio tour.



Takeshi Murata, *Melter 2*, 2003. Video, color, sound, 3:50 minutes.  
Courtesy the artist; Ratio 3, San Francisco; and Salon 94, New York.



**Contemporary Art  
Museum St. Louis**  
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