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ART IN ACTION

MGM Resorts puts Japanese culture front and center—literally—with a temporary public studio where acclaimed artist Kisho Mukaiyama captivates onlookers while he develops his new work in plain view.

By Rebecca Orlov

The public will have the opportunity to observe in-real-life art creation by artist Kisho Mukaiyama.

Beyond the glitz and glam of the Strip, elevated experiences are charming our city through the lens of culture and art. Currently on our radar is Bellagio's Artist Studio. Powered by MGM Resorts' Art & Culture program, the Artist Studio provides a meaningful and immersive opportunity for the public to observe and embrace global art. The first artist to take center stage in the space is notable Japanese artist Kisho Mukaiyama. "For the exhibit, we wanted something captivating. People [in Las Vegas] want something different, and we bring them into a quiet moment," says Tarissa Tiberti, executive director of Art & Culture for MGM Resorts.

Quiet yet compelling certainly describes the Mukaiyama experience, which debuted this past summer and will continue through January 2019. Inspired by the artist's youth traversing the tranquil lands outside of Osaka, guests can watch Mukaiyama create from the visitor observation lounge, using his favored technique of

gouache—a watermedia technique that embraces ambient light and translucency. Working in the Artist Studio adjacent to Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art, Mukaiyama is producing a 24-part piece composed of square gouache paintings titled "Vendarta 100: Six Elements and the Seasons." "I am so delighted that I can work on my creation in such a dynamic, fantastic and ideal studio. It is such a great joy that I can create here every day," he says. Upon wrapping in the new year, the final piece will be installed permanently at Mandalay Bay.

Not only will Mukaiyama be creating art, but he will also be discussing it. Throughout his engagement, art students from UNLV will be joining him in his studio space to meet and learn. "I am looking forward to meeting with local people in the community—especially young people from UNLV. I don't believe there is a significant difference between us. I just have been holding the paintbrush longer than them. I am excited to share my values with the new generation." *Through January 2019, adjacent to Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art, 888.488.7111, mgmresorts.com/artandculture*

PHOTO BY JASON FINDELY