

## KAWS (American, b. 1974 – Artist Resources)

[KAWS at Perrotin Gallery, Paris](#)

In 2012, KAWS was selected to create a float for the [Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade](#) based on his signature character, *Companion*.

KAWS installed his first exhibition in UK in 2016 at [the Yorkshire Sculpture Park](#). Curators, gallerists, and collectors come together in this [video profile](#) with the artist to discuss KAWS' rise through the graffiti world and his ability to bridge the gap between fine art and commercial enterprise.

In a [2017 video interview](#) with digital entertainment community, *Complex*, KAWS discusses graffiti as an artistic outlet, his conceptual process, the development of KAWS from a tag to an artistic identity, and his product design collaborations. "You can't really put a lot of weight behind other's opinions, because they are not you and they're not going to really understand where you see things can go," he explains, "things can play out or not play out, but at least they're your choices."



Donnelly, 2018; Photograph: Brian Durball, Juxtapoz



Donnelly, 2019  
Photograph: Donald Stahl, ARTnews

"In the U.S, it just felt as if, 'Oh, you could be a fine artist or you could be a commercial artist.' There was a split division: if you do this, you can't do that, like one thing knocks out the other. There is definitely truth in that, and still, even today you get that. You have people who are a little bit scared of commercial projects or still pretend that there is this church," KAWS tells Juxtapoz magazine in a [2018 illustrated interview](#). "But for me, I enjoy just having work disseminate in different countries at the same time. That can never happen in a gallery space." Published in conjunction with [GONE, his first show at Skarstedt Gallery](#) in New York.

KAWS talks with [ARTnews](#) in a recent profile about his foray into the collectibles market and his own collecting passions.

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**A Lonely One**, 2019

Acrylic on canvas

Private Collection, Los Angeles; L2019:140.1

Multi-media artist KAWS, née Brian Donnelly, began his career as a graffiti artist in the 1990s after studying animation at the School of Visual Arts in New York. Merging commercialism and cultural reference with street art, painting, and sculpture, his work recalls the fundamentals of Pop Art and conflates the distinction between fine art and commercial objects; KAWS is in fact known for merchandising his work and has collaborated with such international brands as Dior and Nike. The artist's animated style and use of vibrant colors are often compared to the work of Japanese artist Takashi Murakami (b. 1962). **A Lonely One** demonstrates a mild temperament rarely featured in KAWS's oeuvre. His signature subversive appropriations of cartoon characters and cultural icons are absent, replaced by a graphic abstraction that seems to provide a close-up glimpse of a strange, energetic world that extends beyond the confines of the frame.

*On view January 22 – April 26, 2020*

