

## The Noguchi Museum Presents Futura Akari Limited Editions

*With the release of two limited edition series of Akari lanterns and prints hand-painted by FUTURA2000, The Noguchi Museum continues a collaboration that began in 2020 with the exhibition 'Futura Akari'*

**Sale to benefit The Noguchi Museum begins Wednesday, September 14, 12 pm ET**



FUTURA2000 hand-drawing on Akari 1AV print. Photo: ShiLei Wang

New York (September 12, 2022) – With the release of two limited edition series of Akari lanterns and prints hand-painted by FUTURA2000, The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum continues a collaboration that began in 2020 with the exhibition *Futura Akari*.

In August 2021, in Isamu Noguchi's former studio located across the street from The Noguchi Museum in Long Island City, Queens, Leonard McGurr (FUTURA2000) hand-painted a series of Akari 1A, all of which feature designs by Noguchi screenprinted in yellow, orange, red, green, and grey colorways; and a series of hand-paintings on screenprints featuring surface designs for Akari. The two Akari print designs were created by Noguchi in different colorways for the Akari 1A beginning around 1954. The Akari prints are screenprinted in Japan on washi paper.

The two limited edition series will be available for purchase starting Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at 12 pm ET. Each lamp and print is hand-painted and unique. Learn more and purchase at: [noguchi.org/futura-akari-limited-editions](https://noguchi.org/futura-akari-limited-editions).



## AKARI 1A SERIES

Isamu Noguchi

FUTURA2000

Hand-painted Akari 1A

1952/c. 1954/2021

Aerosol on screenprinted washi paper, bamboo, metal

17 x 10 x 10 in.

Unique edition of 25 with 15 APs

\$3,000 each



## AKARI PRINT SERIES

Isamu Noguchi

FUTURA2000

Hand-painted Akari Print

c. 1954/2021

Acrylic, marker, and aerosol on screenprinted washi paper

24 x 19 in.

Monoprint edition of 99 with 17 APs

\$5,000 each



FUTURA2000 hand-painting Akari editions at Isamu Noguchi's former studio. Photo: ShiLei Wang

## ABOUT FUTURA2000

FUTURA2000 (b. Leonard Hilton McGurr, 1955, New York) is an abstract painter whose practice first developed in New York during the 1970s. One of the earliest graffiti artists to introduce abstraction into his work, FUTURA2000 was also among the first graffiti artists to be shown in contemporary art galleries in the early 1980s.

Early exhibitions of his work include presentations at Patti Astor's Fun Gallery and Tony Shafrazi Gallery, as well as within the historic *Times Square* show of 1980, alongside Keith Haring, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Rammellzee, and Kenny Scharf. MoMA PS1 brought the artists together again in its landmark 1981 exhibition, *New York / New Wave*. FUTURA2000 collaborated with the punk band The Clash during this time as well, designing their album art and painting on large-scale canvases behind the band as they performed in concert. In recent years, he created collaborative works with Takashi Murakami and exhibited at Kaikai KiKi Gallery in Tokyo. He worked with Virgil Abloh on collections for Off-White and Louis Vuitton and stage visuals for the designer at Coachella.

FUTURA2000's work has been shown at The New Museum, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Los Angeles; the Groninger Museum, the Netherlands; and Yvon Lambert, Galerie De Noirmont, and the galerie du jour agnès b., Paris. In 2020, The Noguchi Museum presented *Futura Akari*, an installation of Akari light sculptures customized by FUTURA2000; he created a large site-specific installation at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris; and he was included in the exhibition *Writing the Future: Basquiat and the Hip Hop Generation* at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

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