

# YAYOI KUSAMA

## LOOK NOW, SEE FOREVER

19 November 2011 – 11 March 2012  
Gallery of Modern Art

### ABOUT YAYOI KUSAMA

Yayoi Kusama (b.1929, Japan) is one of the most exciting and prolific artists working today. With a practice encompassing performance, film-making, painting, drawing, sculpture, installation, fashion, poetry, fiction and public spectacles (or 'happenings') over some 60 years, this leading Japanese practitioner has been widely acknowledged as a major influence on several generations of contemporary artists.

'Look Now, See Forever', a major solo exhibition featuring new and recent work by Kusama, transforms the dramatic spaces of the Gallery of Modern Art into a series of spectacular rooms featuring new sculptures and paintings, as well as film projection and installation. Her vibrant, consistently surprising work continues to captivate audiences around the world. Kusama's recent works signal new directions for the artist, but continue to explore her long-term fascination with pattern, reflection and infinite space.

During your visit, you might like to engage your students with the following art works:

- *Reach Up to the Universe, Dotted Pumpkin* 2011 featuring shiny aluminium, two-metre-tall pumpkins
- *Dots Obsession* 2011, an intense colour installation featuring an explosion of polka dots over red walls, floors, ceilings and giant balloons, with mirrors creating the illusion of infinite space
- *The Obliteration Room*, a popular installation in which visitors are invited to plaster a completely white room with multi-coloured polka dots.



### IDEAS FOUND IN KUSAMA'S ART:

Repetition

Infinity

Surfaces

Colour

Organic forms  
and objects –  
flowers and pumpkins

### MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YAYOI KUSAMA

For more information about the artist, visit the online interactive publication which features expanded commentary on the works in the exhibition, newly commissioned scholarship on aspects of the artist's practice, and an in-depth timeline of her life and work. New essays will be added during the course of the exhibition, and viewers will be able to track the evolution of *The Obliteration Room*, the artist's specially-commissioned interactive project.

## CURRICULUM CHECKLIST

(Essential Learnings by the end of Year 7)

### Visual arts

Students will be encouraged to:

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

- explore the way the artists use pattern and repetition to communicate an idea

### CREATING

- select and develop ideas for art works, considering intended audiences and intended purposes, and make decisions about art elements and languages

### PRESENTING

- create and shape art works by modifying art elements to express purpose and to include influences from their own and other cultures and times

### RESPONDING

- respond by analysing and evaluating art works in social and cultural contexts, using art elements and languages

### REFLECTING

- reflect on learning, apply new understandings and identify future applications.

## FOR THE CLASSROOM

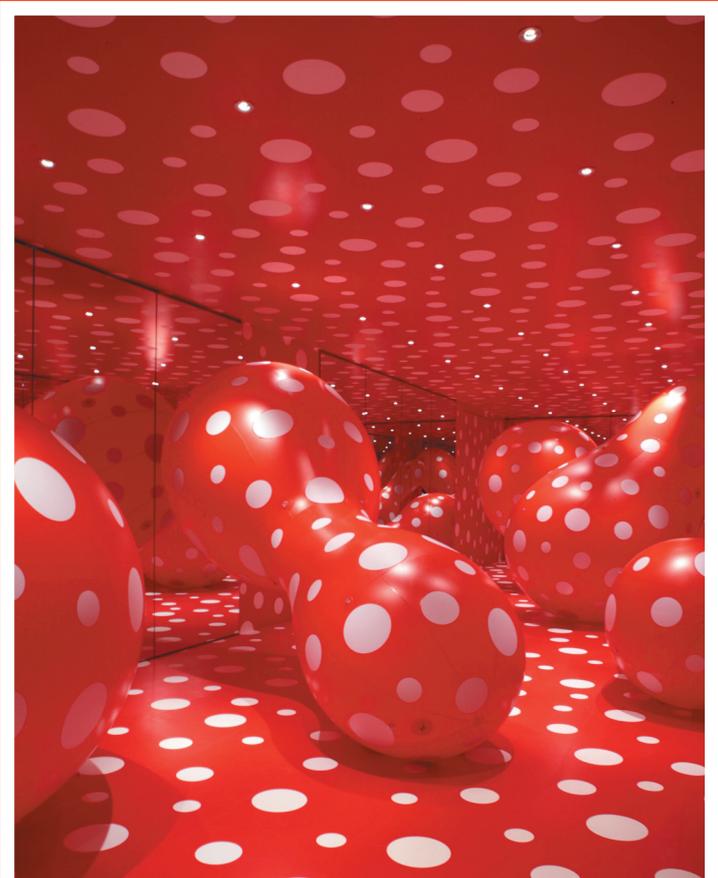
### PRE-VISIT: KEY IDEAS TO EXPLORE

- use of colour
- pattern and repetition
- sources of inspiration
- range of materials and techniques — sculpture, installation, painting, reflection as a way of patterning.

### POST-VISIT:

Discuss the similarities and differences between the Aquilizans' work and Kusama's:

- accumulation
  - experience within a created environment
  - community involvement versus personal, private experience
  - repetition and pattern
  - creating social spaces and interactions.
- Research the work of other artists to explore how patterns are created/represented
  - Investigate the Ishihara colour perception test installed in 3-D form inside a square-foot cube
  - Explore reflected images — a veil of dots created by overhead transparency projections or wall projections using mirror reflections, a mirror ball creating constellations.



This education resource was developed by Melina Mallos and Caitlin Pijpers, Access, Education and Regional Services, Queensland Art Gallery, 2011.



## QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY | GALLERY OF MODERN ART

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**Yayoi Kusama** / *Flowers that Bloom at Midnight* 2010 / Fibreglass-reinforced plastic, urethane paint / Collection: The artist / Installation view at Gagosian Gallery, Los Angeles / © Yayoi Kusama, Yayoi Kusama Studio Inc. / Courtesy: Gagosian Gallery/Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo

**Yayoi Kusama** / *Dots Obsession* 2009 / Mixed media / Collection: The artist / Installation view at Hayward Gallery, Southbank Centre, London / © Yayoi Kusama, Yayoi Kusama Studio Inc. / Courtesy: Victoria Miro Gallery, London/Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo