



Art History & Crafts with the Zuccaire Gallery

# Yayoi Kusama

# Yayoi Kusama

- Yayoi Kusama is an avant-garde contemporary Japanese artist
- Known for work with patterns and polka dots
  - Yayoi has embraced multiple styles including pop-art and abstract impressionism
- Yayoi began creating artwork from childhood but was not supported by her parents
  - Experienced a turbulent household and childhood both from internal family and experiencing World War II
- Yayoi began experiencing hallucinations at ten years old that often involved patterns and dots
  - These hallucinations molded her art style
- “My art is an expression of my life, particularly my mental disease”-Yayoi Kusama
  - Her art was a form of therapy



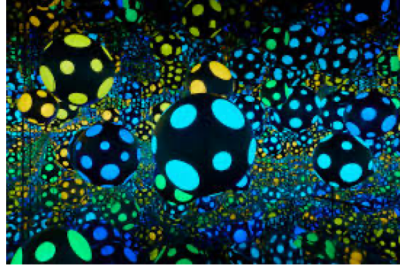
# Yayoi Kusama



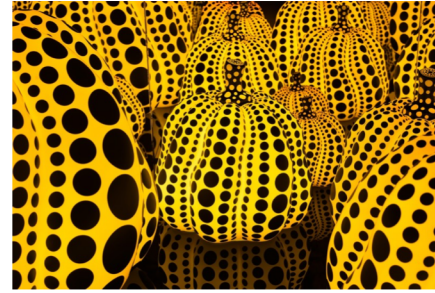
Credit: Magnolia Pictures



Yayoi Kusama, Flowers That Bloom At Midnight, 2018



My Heart Is Dancing Into The Universe, 2018



All the Eternal Love I Have for Pumpkins, 2018



Summer is Forever, 1989



My Hope for Peace, 2019



Mushrooms, 1995



My Eternal Soul, 2009



Endless Floor Show, 1965



# Sexism in Japan

- “If we increase the number of female board members, we have to make sure their speaking time is restricted somewhat, they have difficulty finishing.”
- “We have about seven women on the organizing committee but everyone understands their place.”
- “Women talk too much.”
- “Japan’s LDP invited women to ‘look, not talk’ at key meetings.” (Source: BBC.com)

# Sexism & Gender Norms

- Ryosai Kenbo: “good wife and a wise mother” or “wise wife and a good mother”

illustration by Peter Oumanski



# Gender Gap

- Japan is ranked 121/153 in the World Economic Forum's 2020 Gender Gap Index.
- Only ~15% of leadership positions are filled by women.
- At 24.5 percent in 2018, the gender wage gap is the second largest among Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) nations.
- Women in Japan spend more than four times as much time as men on unpaid domestic work.
- According to a 2018 study by Kantar and Women Political Leaders, 24% of people in Japan said they would feel comfortable having a woman as a CEO of a major company, compared to 63% in the US.

# Create Patterned work like Yayoi

## Materials List:

Bright colored construction paper  
(Yellow, Red, White, Black)

Something to draw a circle

Dot Stickers

Colored markers (Sharpie)

