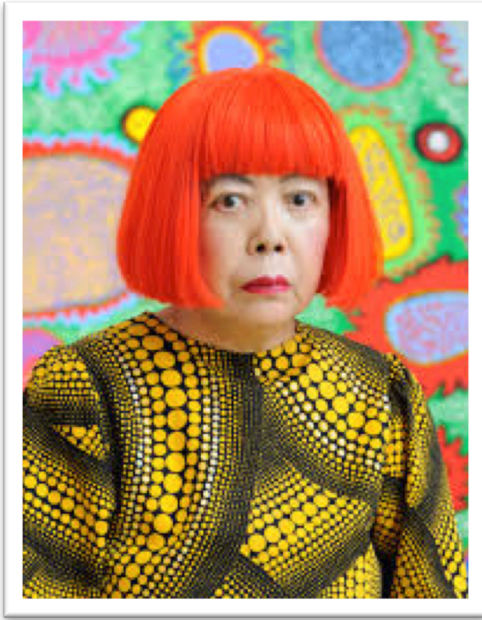


LESSON PLAN

AT-HOME ART PROJECT: Polka Dotted Pumpkins **INSTRUCTIONS**

INSPIRATION ARTIST:



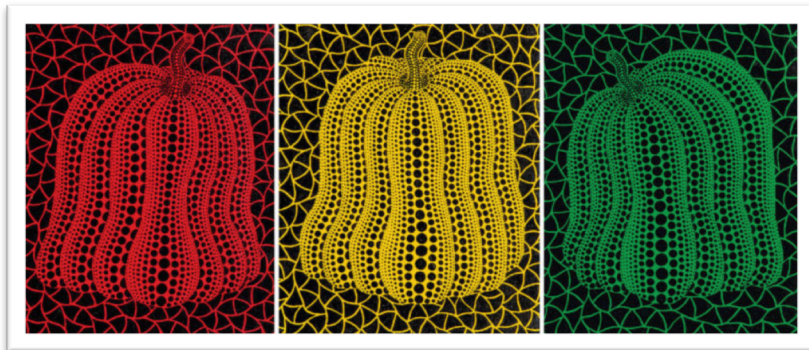
Yayoi Kusama (Creating art from 1957-Present)

Yayoi Kusama is a Japanese artist who is sometimes called “The Princess of Polka Dots”. Although she makes lots of different types of art – paintings, sculptures, performances, and installations – they have one thing in common, DOTS!

Yayoi Kusama produces art that ranges from paintings and sculptures to film and art installations. Her body of work is typically unified by her repetitive utilization of dots, mirrors, and pumpkins.

By adding all-over marks and dots to her paintings, drawings, objects, and clothes Yayoi feels as if she is making them (and herself) melt into, and become part of, the bigger universe. She said: *‘Our earth is only one polka dot among a million stars in the cosmos. Polka dots are a way to infinity. When we obliterate nature and our bodies with polka dots, we become part of the unity of our environment’.*

Known in Japan as Kabocha, pumpkins are positive images to Kusama. Because Kusama spent hours drawing pumpkins as a young girl, they represent stability and comfort. According to Kusama, she prefers to use pumpkins because not only are they attractive in both color and form, but they are also tender to the touch.



Pumpkin, 2003, acrylic on canvas, triptych



Love is Calling, 2013

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MATERIALS NEEDED FROM HOME:

- White or light-colored paper
- Black Sharpie or marker
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Optional: pencil and eraser

ART PROJECT DESCRIPTION: At home artists will create a stylized polka dotted pumpkin inspired by the work of Yayoi Kusama, *Pumpkin*, 2003.

PROMPT QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think Yayoi likes to include pumpkins in her artwork?
2. What lines and shapes do you see in her artwork?
3. Why do you think Yayoi chose the colors she did for her pumpkins?

ART MAKING PROCESS:

Step 1:

Using a black Sharpie or marker begin by drawing the top of the pumpkin stem, a sideways oval shape, near the top of your paper. Draw the two sides of the stem and add a “pear” shaped form beneath it but not touching (FIG.1). If you are not comfortable with drawing your initial shapes with Sharpie use a pencil to begin your work.

Step 2:

Following the lines of your first “pear” shape add the next set of lines connecting the stem to the center (FIG. 2).

Step 3:

Add the set of lines and then the final two lines added behind the stem (FIG. 3). Your pumpkin is now drawn, and it is time to add the dots!

Step 4:

Starting from the center, use your Sharpie to add large circles down the middle of the stem and center “pear” shape. Next add medium circles. Following the curved lines of your “pear” shaped forms add semi circles along the lines (FIG. 4). Fill in the remainder of your pumpkin with smaller and smaller dots (FIG. 5).

Step 5:

Fill in the large and medium circles with your Sharpie and add the small dots by using the tip of your Sharpie (FIG. 6). When filling in the dots in can be helpful to turn your paper upside down or sideways (FIG. 7).

Step 6:

Allow your Sharpie to dry before adding color. If you choose a warm color (reds, yellows, and oranges) for your pumpkin, chose a cool color (blues, purples, and greens) for your background (FIG. 8).

POST PROMPT QUESTIONS:

1. Pumpkins reminded Yayoi of a good childhood memory. Is there an object that reminds you of a happy memory?
2. Did you enjoy making this kind of art? Why or why not?

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3. Making art helps make Yayoi feel peaceful. How does making art make you feel?

ART PROJECT STEP-BY-STEP EXAMPLE:

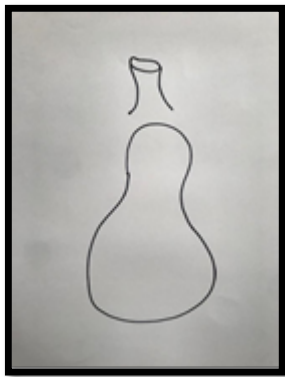


FIG. 1



FIG. 2

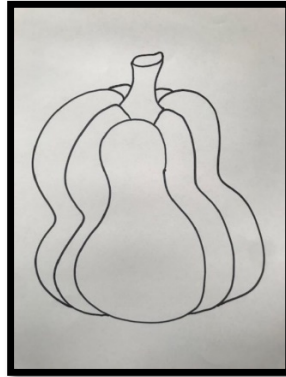


FIG. 3

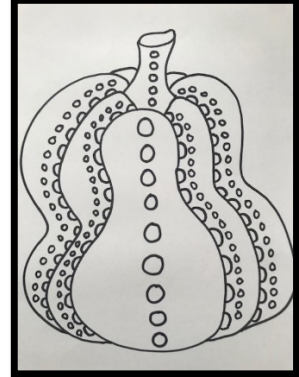


FIG. 4

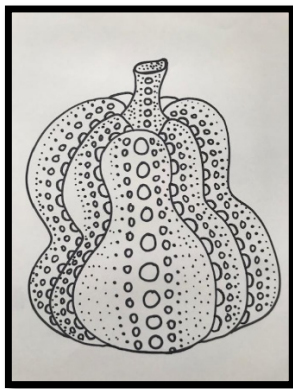


FIG. 5



FIG. 6

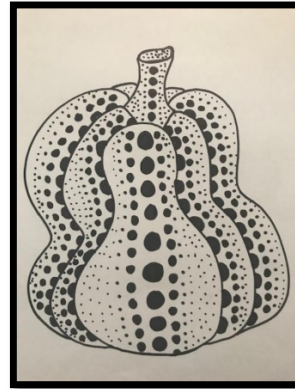


FIG. 7

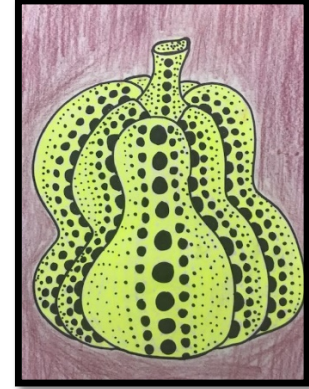
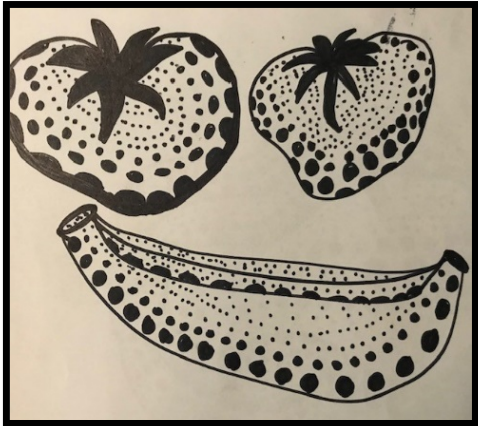


FIG. 8

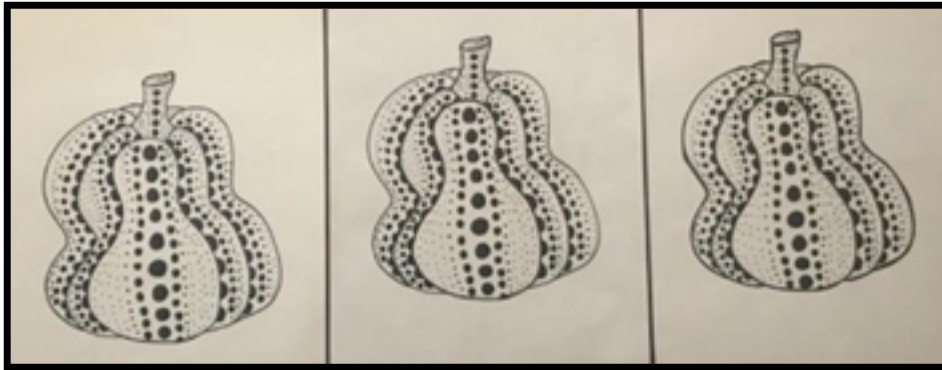
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EXTRA FUN:

1. Draw your own favorite fruit or vegetable in Yayoi's style.



2. Make copies of your pumpkin or fruit and veggie drawing before adding color and create a triptych (a grouping of three pieces of art) using different colors.



SOURCES:

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/who-is/who-yayoi-kusama>

<https://publicdelivery.org/yayoi-kusama-pumpkins/>