

Grade 3 – Geometric vs. Organic Shapes



Shape

What do you see?



“All the Eternal Love I Have For Pumpkins” Infinity Room, 2017, Kusama

Artistic Focus: Shape



“All the Eternal Love I Have For Pumpkins”
Infinity Room, 2017, Kusama

SHAPE is a closed space made when a line connects to itself.

Today’s objectives:

1. Explain the difference between geometric and organic shapes
2. Use a variety of paint techniques to create a Kusama-inspired pumpkin

WA State Visual Arts Standard
Create personally satisfying artwork, using a variety of artistic processes and materials.
(VA: Cr2.1.3)

Yoiyo Kusama

- Born in 1929 in Matsumoto, Japan, Kusama studied painting in Kyoto before moving to New York City in the late 1950s. She currently lives in Japan.
- Kusama's works are examples of Pop Art and Minimalism.
- Her creations include paintings, performances, room-size presentations, and outdoor sculptural installations.
- She uses art as therapy: "I fight pain, anxiety and fear every day, and the only method I have found that relieves my illness is to keep creating art."



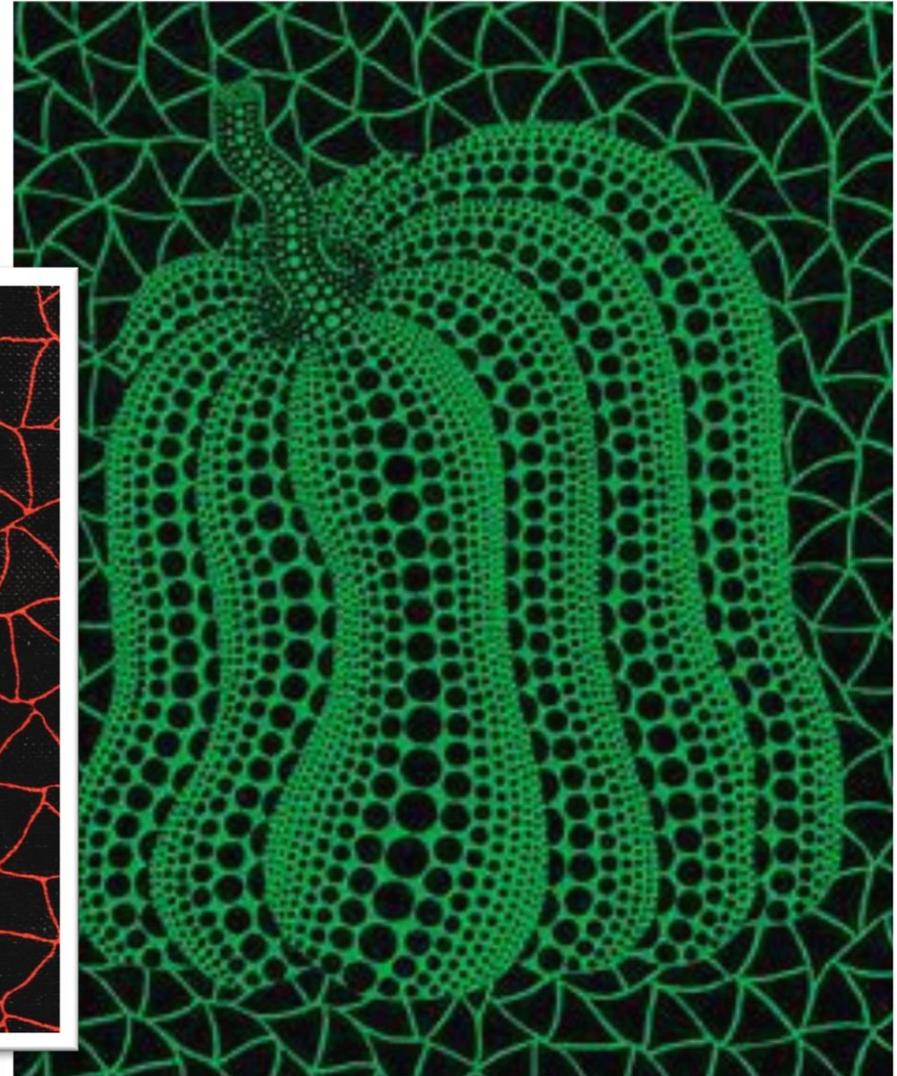
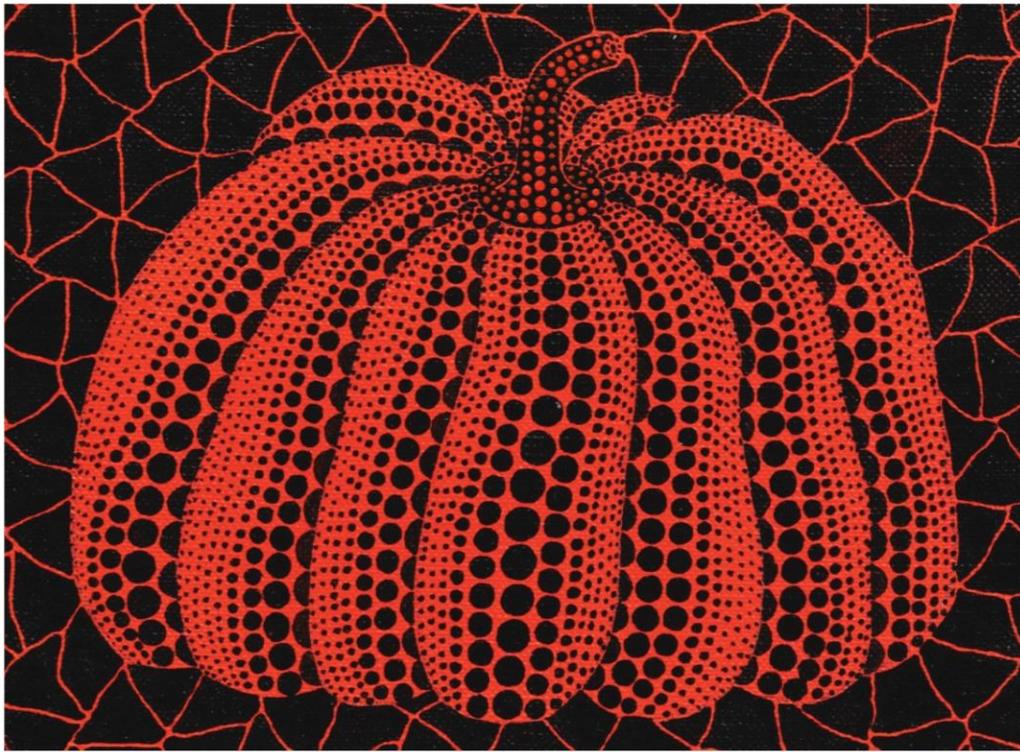
Artwork



Pumpkin, 1991, Kusama

Artwork

*"Our earth is only one polka dot among
a million stars in the cosmos.
Polka dots are a way to infinity."
- Yayoi Kusama*



Pumpkins, 2006, Yayoi Kusama

Example of Today's Project



Materials

Watercolor Paper



Scrap Paper



Black Tempera Paint



Paper Plates



Watercolors



Paper Towels



Corks



Pencil



Black Sharpie

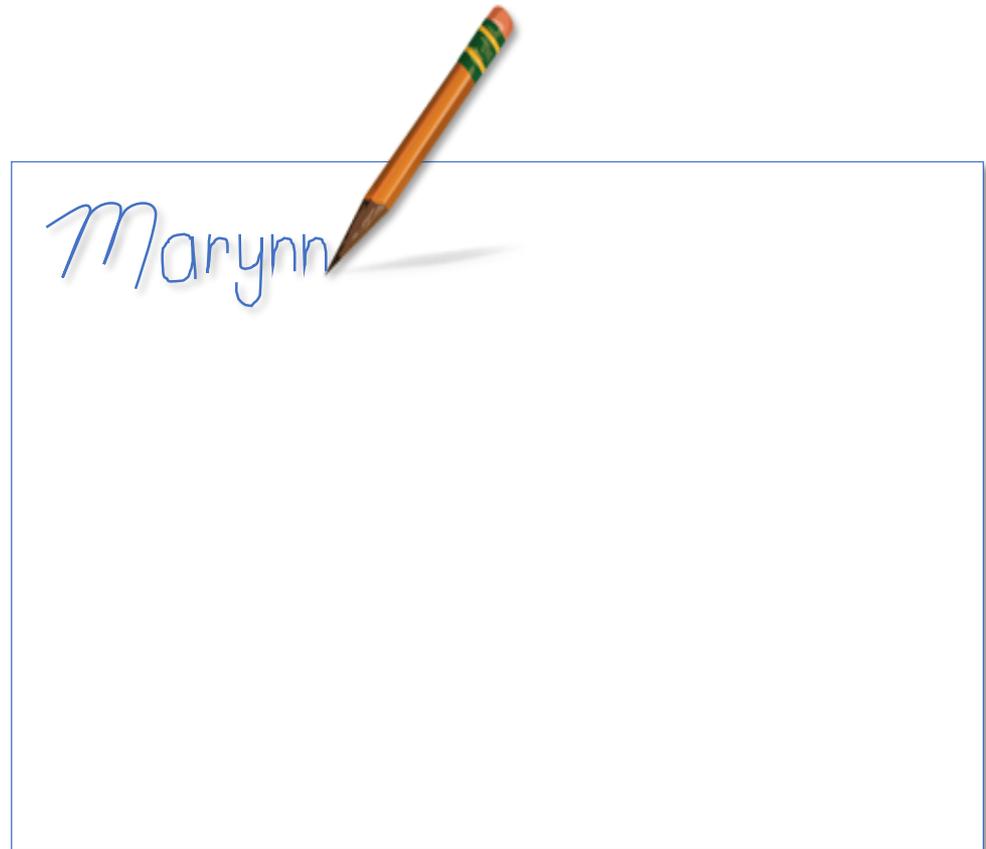


Paint Brush



Before You Begin

1. Write your name in pencil on the back of the paper.
2. Flip over your paper.
3. **Roll up your sleeves!**



Organic vs. Geometric Shapes

SHAPE is a closed space made when a line connects to itself.

ORGANIC: shapes, often curvilinear in appearance, that are similar to those found in nature, such as plants, animals, and rocks.

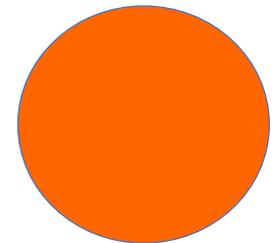
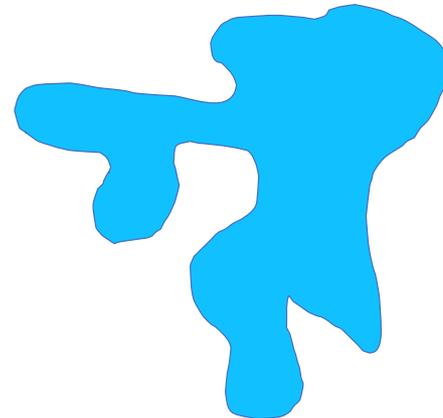
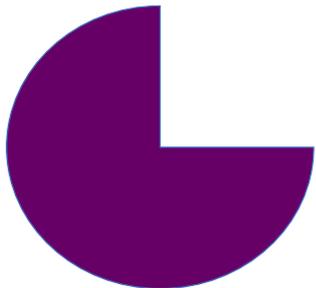
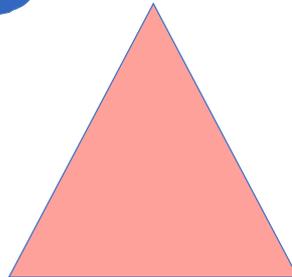
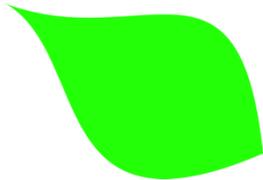
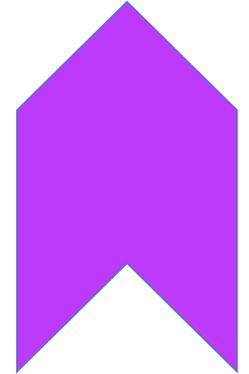
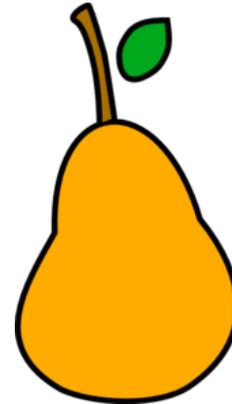
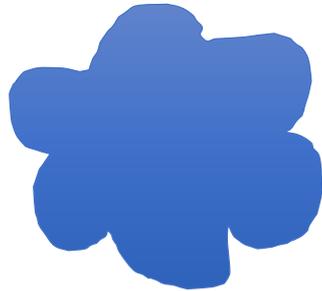
GEOMETRIC: any shapes and based on math principles, such as a square, circle, and triangle.



Pumpkin (M) in bronze, 2014,
Yayoi Kusama

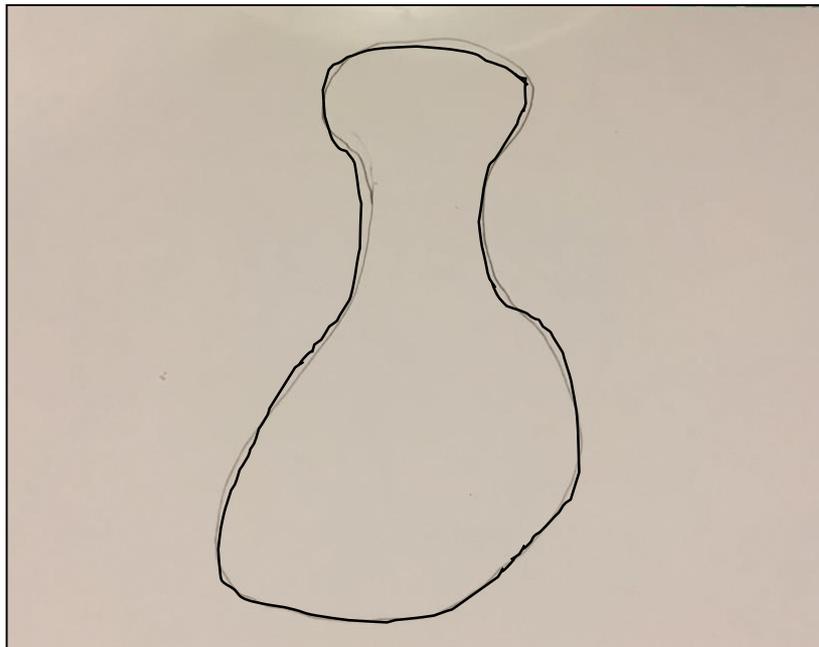
Organic vs. Geometric Shapes

Which shapes below are geometric? Which shapes are organic?



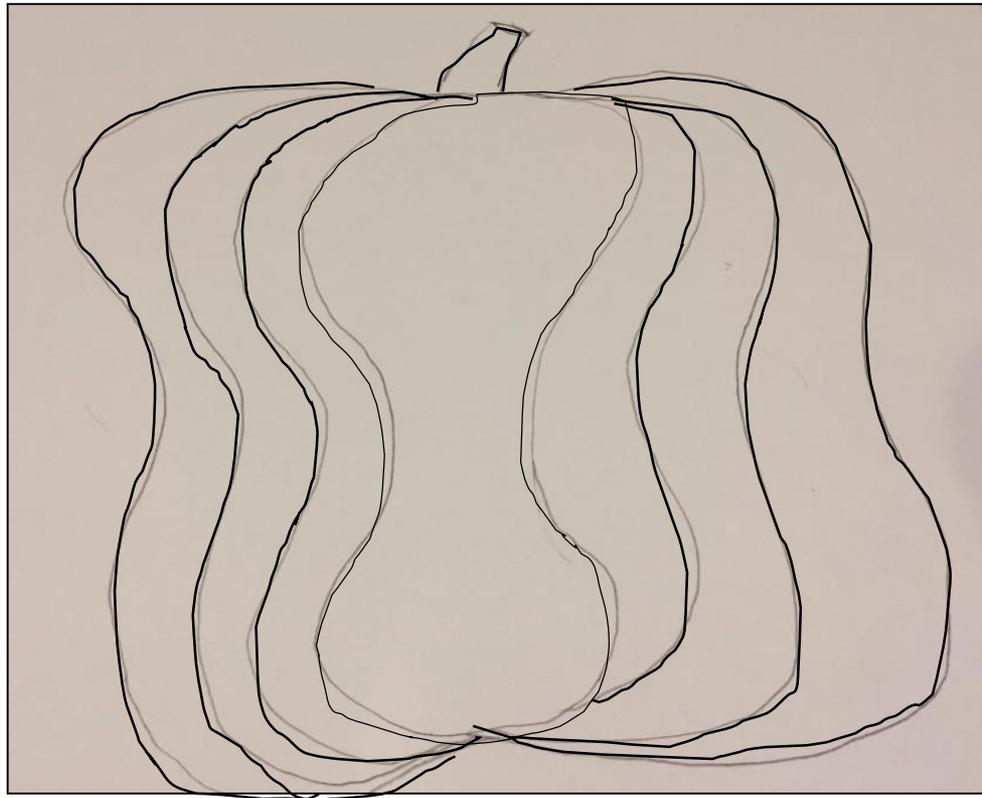
Step 1

- Our pumpkin drawing will be made from a series of organic shapes.
- Start drawing your pumpkin about an inch below the top of the paper (to leave space for the stem).
- Use your pencil to lightly draw a large peanut-type shape that will be the middle section of your pumpkin.



Step 2

- Draw the stem for your pumpkin.
- Add 2-3 more curved lines on each side of the peanut shape. Make them about 3 finger-widths apart. You may go over your lines with a Sharpie now or later.



Step 3

- Pick your pumpkin's color.
- Dip your paintbrush into the water.
- Lightly squeeze the water into the watercolor pan you chose until it's full.
- Take your brush and in a gentle circular motion, mix the paint with the water - about 20 circles.
- Test your color on the scrap paper to see if it's dark enough. If you want it darker, circle your brush in the pan to get more paint.



Step 4

- Paint the middle section of your pumpkin.
- You may paint the other organic sections the same color or vary the color of the section by using different values.

Note:

- We want it to dry quickly, so paint lightly.
- Remember, value is the lightness and darkness of a line, shape, or form.



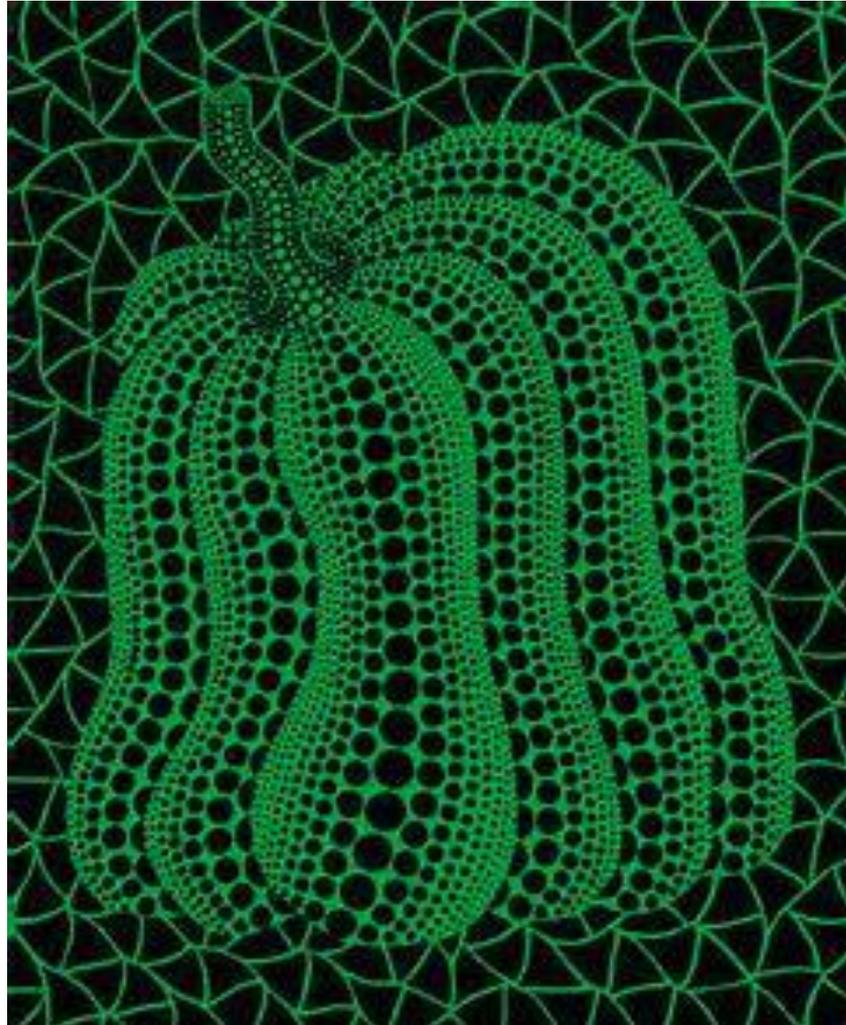
Drying Time Before Adding Dots

- The painting needs a little time to dry before adding the dots.



Drying Time Before Adding Dots

- On some of Kusama's paintings, she used patterns for the sections of the pumpkin and random small dots for the stem.

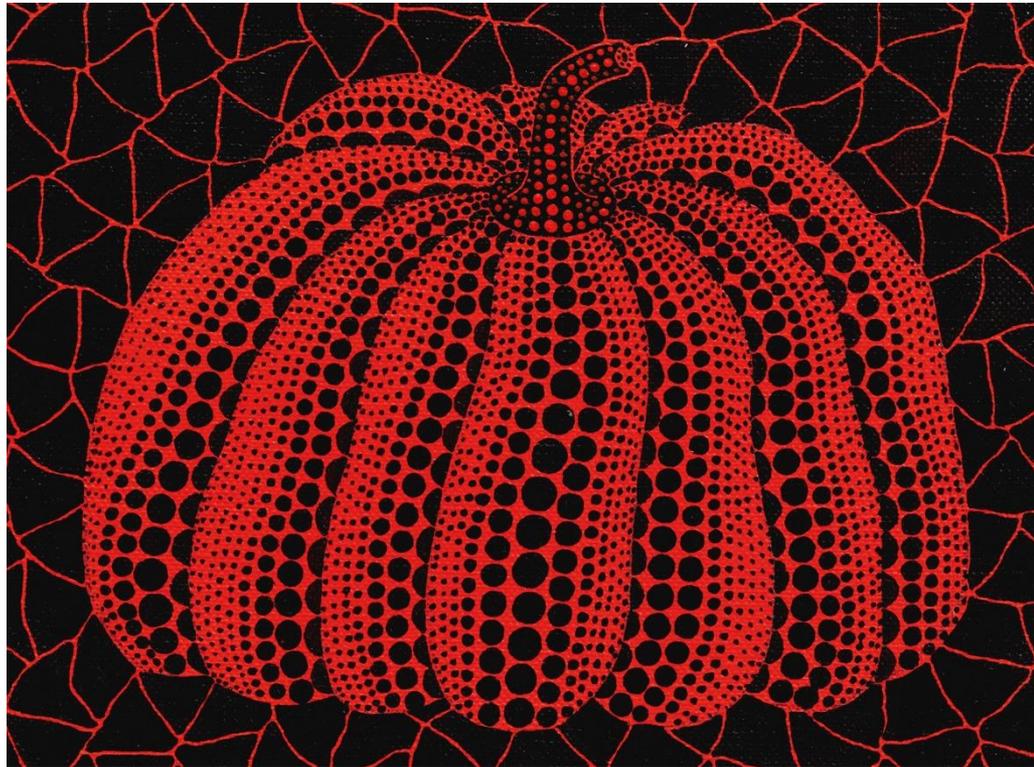


Pumpkins, 2006, Yayoi Kusama

Drying Time Before Adding Dots

Think about the dots for your pumpkin:

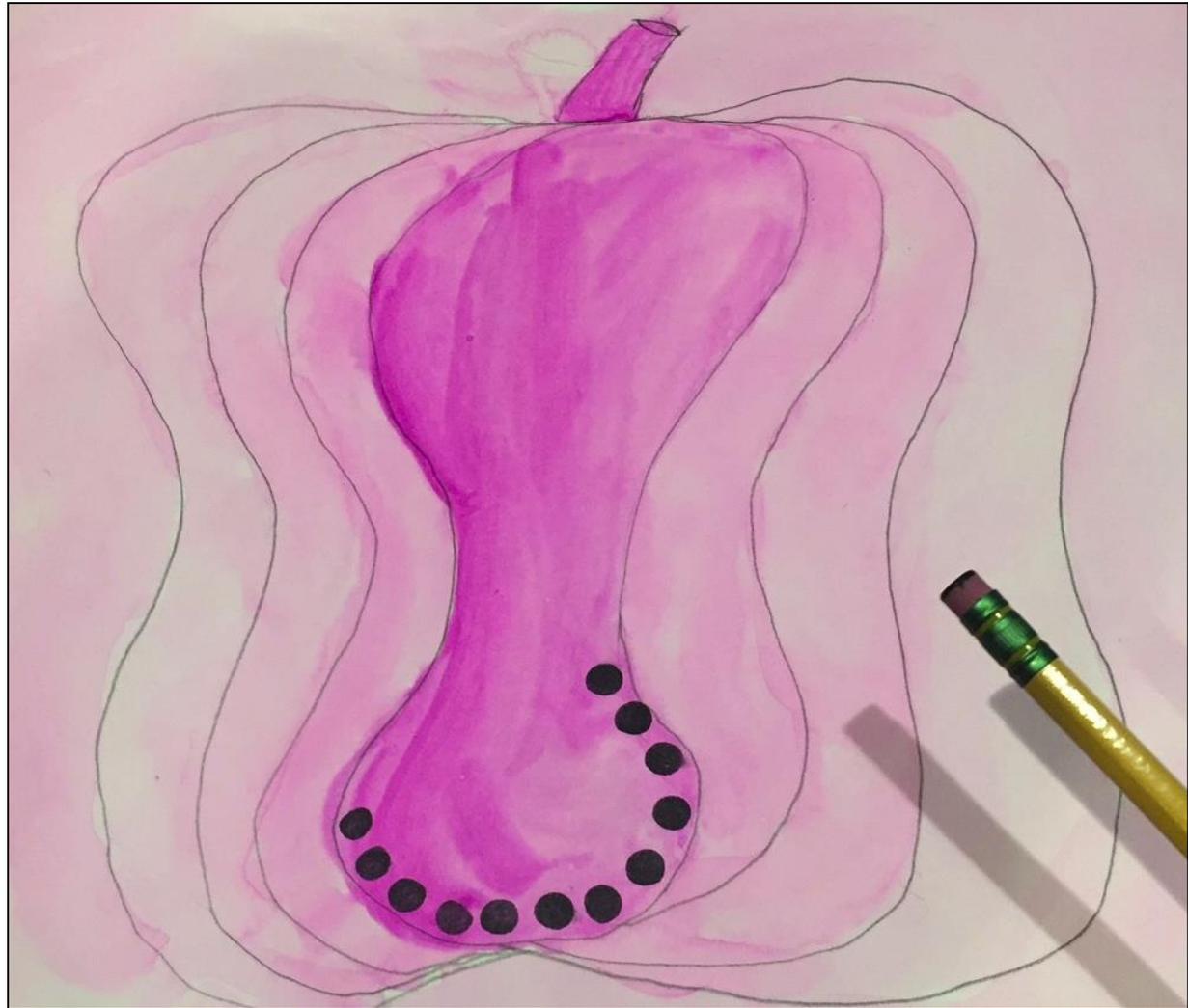
- What will be their sizes?
- Will you place them randomly or in a pattern?



Pumpkins, 2006, Yayoi Kusama

Drying Time Before Adding Dots

- How will you add dots to your painting?
- You can use a Sharpie marker, the eraser of a pencil, or corks to make different sized dots.
- You may go over your lines with a Sharpie if you'd like.



Step 5

- If your painting is now dry enough, you can add the dots.
- To use the corks and the pencil eraser, lightly dip the flat end into the tempera paint and then on to your pumpkin.
- Repeat to make your desired pattern.
- Use the Sharpie to make small dots.



Reflection

- What is the difference between an organic and a geometric shape?
- How did you use organic and geometric shapes to make your pumpkin?
- What was your favorite part of our project today?
- Would anyone like to share their art?



Credits

1. <http://visualmelt.com/Yayoi-Kusama>
2. <https://www.victoria-miro.com/exhibitions/464/>
3. [https://www.artspace.com/yayoi kusama](https://www.artspace.com/yayoi_kusama)
4. <https://youtu.be/Z4OhwL7WyHg> video - kids critique
5. <https://youtu.be/ibHY-CLNJyU> video - interview with Kusama
6. Original LWSD sample, used with permission.



The development of this Lake Washington School District art docent lesson was made possible by a grant from the Lake Washington Schools Foundation.

