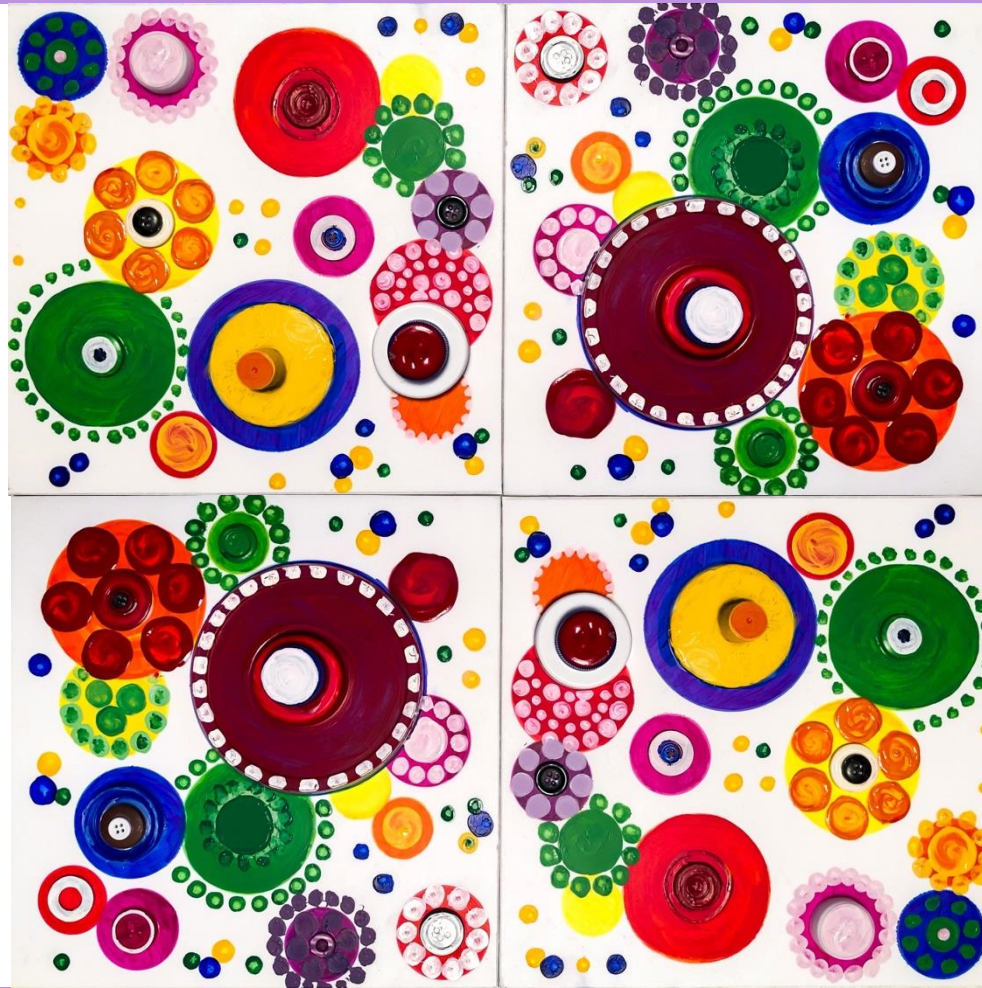


Grade 5 – Infinity Dots!



Community Art

Important Project Note

This project is designed to take two sessions:

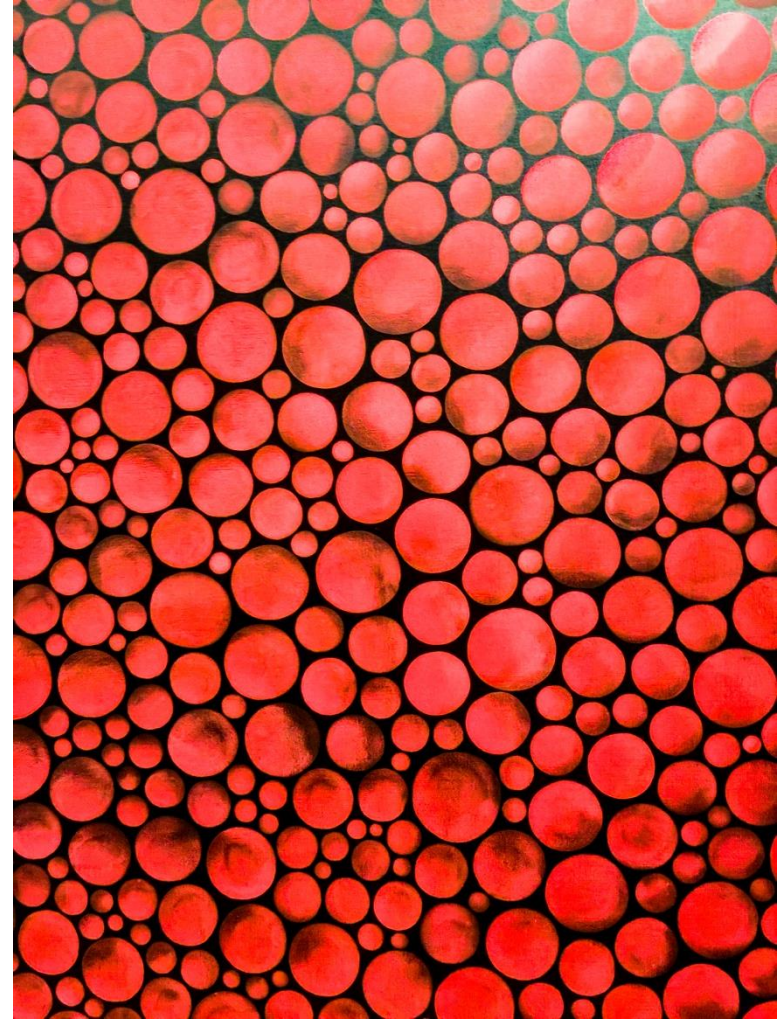
- Session 1 will take about 1 hour to complete
- Session 2 will take about 45 minutes for painting



What do you see?



Accumulation of Stardust,
2001, Yayoi Kusama



Dots Obsession XZQBA,
2007, Yayoi Kusama

Artistic Focus: Community Art



Detail from Accumulation of Stardust,
2001, Yayoi Kusama

COMMUNITY ART is an artistic activity based in a community setting, emphasizing collaboration.

Today's objectives for Session 1:

1. To explore the work of Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama
2. To create a relief sculpture by arranging round objects of different sizes and heights
3. To build a large panel of colorful dots by joining the work of an entire classroom of students together

WA State Visual Arts Standard

Cite evidence about how an exhibition in a museum or other venue presents ideas and provides information about a specific concept or topic. (VA: Pr6.1.5)

Yayoi Kusama

- Born March 22, 1929 in Nagano, Japan
- Artist, novelist, poet
- Has received many awards for her work
- Produces avant-garde, conceptual art
- Saw dots everywhere as a child – her artwork was a way to explain and deal with her visions
- Lived in New York for many years
- Still producing art at age 88
- Kusama Museum opened 2017 in Tokyo, Japan



Yayoi Kusama in 2016

Artwork



"The red and green and yellow dots might represent the circle of the earth, or of the sun or moon, or whatever you like."

– Yayoi Kusama

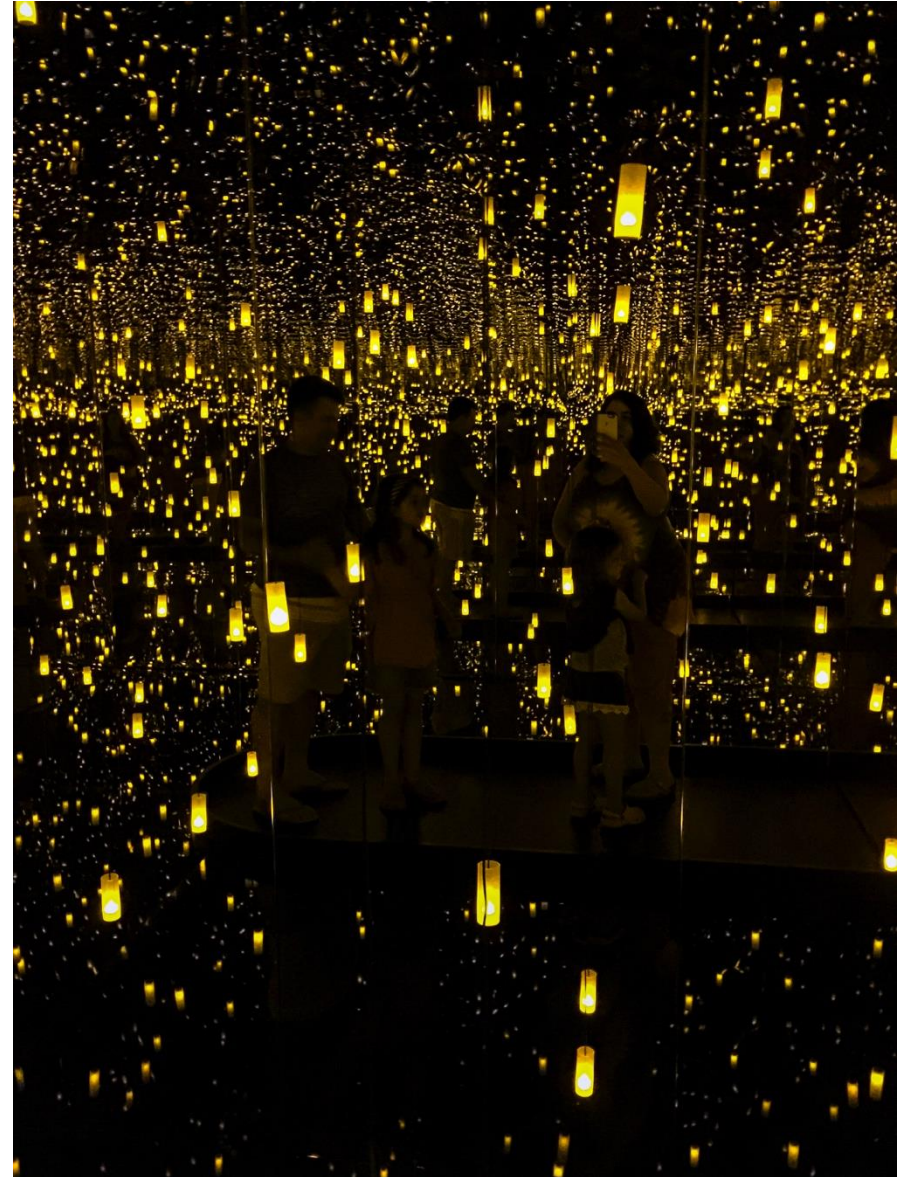


Obliteration Room at Seattle Art Museum, 2017, Yayoi Kusama (dots added by the public)

Artwork



Two of Yayoi Kusama's mirrored "Infinity Rooms" at the Seattle Art Museum in 2017



Session 1 Materials

10"x 10" foam board squares



Circle templates and other round objects to trace or glue



Sharpie Fine Point markers



Paper towels



Paper plates



Elmer's X-treme School Glue



Examples of Today's Project



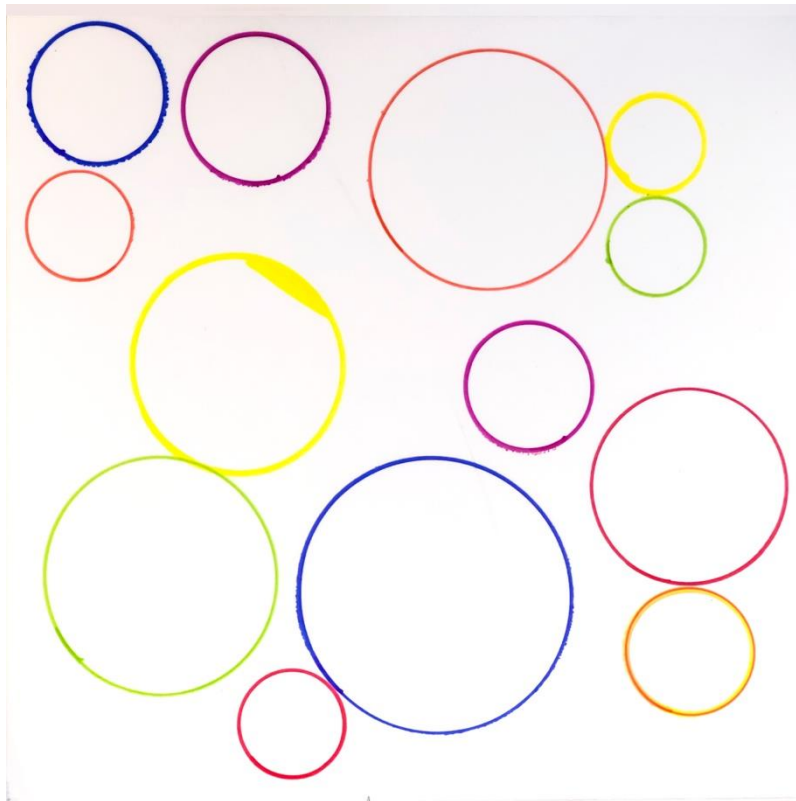
Before You Begin

- Use a Sharpie to write your **name** on the **back** of your foam board square.
- Flip over your square so that the plain white side is facing up.
- **Roll up your sleeves!**



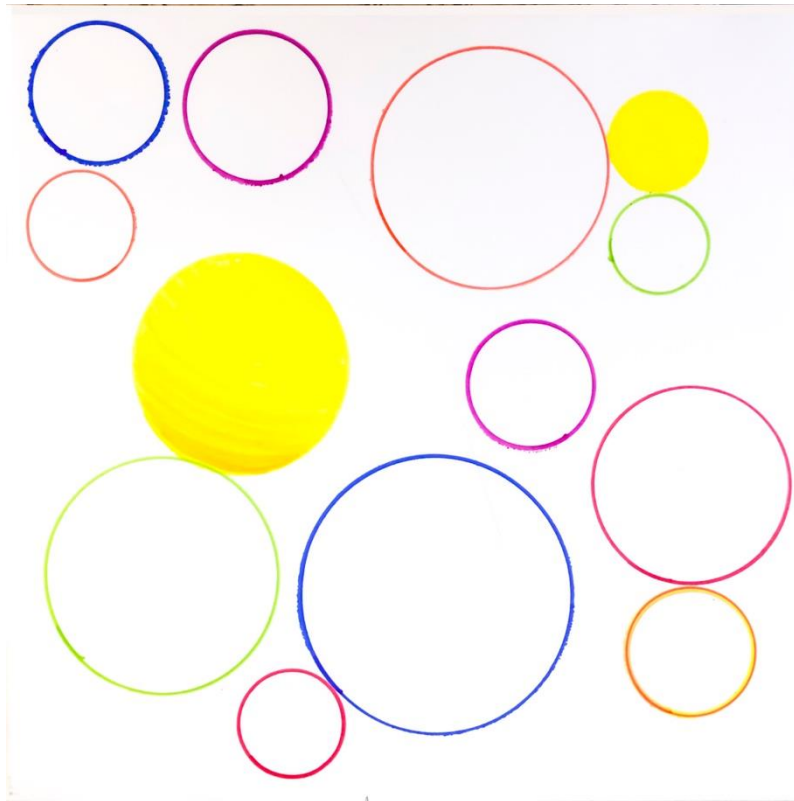
Step 1

- Use a template or plastic lid to draw some different-sized circles on your board.
- Try to use all of the colors shown here at least once.
- Let your circles dry completely.



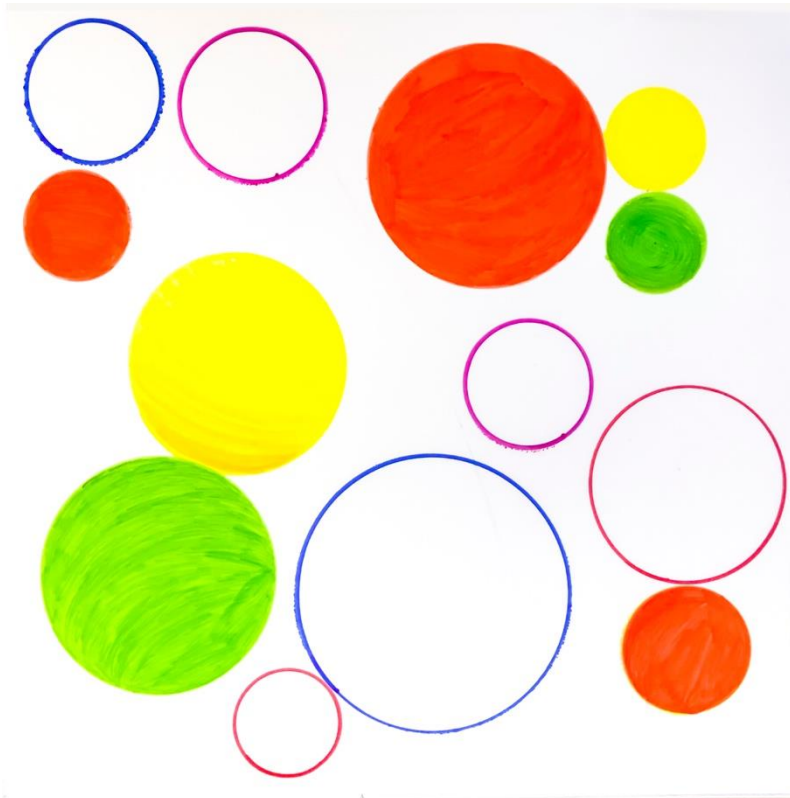
Step 2

- Starting with the lightest color, start coloring in your circles with the same Sharpies to turn them into colorful dots.
- Let your circles dry completely.



Step 3

- Moving from lighter to darker colors, continue coloring in your circles with the same Sharpies you used to draw the outlines.
- Let your dots dry completely.



Step 4

- Continuing with the darker colored Sharpies, finish coloring in your circles.
- Let your dots dry completely.



Step 5

- Choose some round, recycled objects that you would like to glue onto your dot design – buttons, metal washers, plastic container lids, milk carton caps, etc.
- Once you have chosen from 5 to 10 objects, you are ready to get some glue.



Step 6

- Dip in the glue all of the edges of your round object that will touch the board.
- When all of the edges are covered in glue, press them firmly into the middle of one of your colorful dots. You may even try stacking a small object on a larger one.
- Once you have placed the objects on the board, try not to move it.



End of Session 1

- We have made some large dots and are more than halfway through our project!
- Now the glue needs at least a day to set.
- Next time we meet, we will use acrylic paints to make more dots.



Welcome Back for Session 2



"The red and green and yellow dots might represent the circle of the earth, or of the sun or moon, or whatever you like."

– Yayoi Kusama



Obliteration Room at Seattle Art Museum, 2017, Yayoi Kusama (dots added by the public)

Artistic Focus: Form



Detail from Accumulation of Stardust,
2001, Yayoi Kusama

FORM is an element of visual arts where an object has height, length, width, and depth.

Today's objective for session 2:

1. To create a harmonious 2D and 3D display by painting a variety of dots

WA State Visual Arts Standard

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Examples of Today's Project



Session 2 Materials

Project from Session 1
(must be completely dry)



Acrylic paint



Paper towels



Palettes



Cotton swabs



Step 1

Today we'll use cotton swabs to paint more dots, including the raised objects glued to your foam board. Some hints:

- Make an effort to cover any transparent plastic or lettering completely.
- Paint small dots around the circles you colored in our last session.
- Take your time, and be very gentle with the glued objects.



Step 2

- Choose the paint colors you would like to use for your dots.
- You can use your cotton swabs in different ways to paint dots.
 - You may hold your cotton swab straight up with only the tip touching your square board and gently rotate it in a circle to make small dots.
 - You can also paint with the side of of your cotton swab and move it circles to make bigger dots.



Step 3

- Using the same care, make more circles out of dots.
- If you want to, paint small dots in the white areas.
- You may choose to leave some Sharpie marker color visible.



Step 4

- After looking at your work, decide if you need more dots.
- This picture shows lots of new, small, pale dots on top of the large, brightly colored dots that were already there. The amount of dots is up to you!



Step 5

Once the paint has dried, it will be time to display your artwork!

- If you have a sturdy bulletin board, you can put the squares together and make one large panel of dots or post them individually.
- If you do not have wall space, you can set your finished projects on a table or display them together in a cabinet, like a dot city.



Reflection

- What was your favorite part of this project?
- What did you think of painting in your 3D space (on the board and on the taller objects that were glued to it)?
- How would you describe the experience of using cotton swabs, rather than brushes, to paint the dots?
- How is your relief sculpture similar to and/or different from Kusama's Obliteration Room at Seattle Art Museum?
- How do all of your square panels look together as one unit?



Credits

1. Yayoi Kusama's official website <http://yayoi-kusama.jp>
2. More about Kusama https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yayoi_Kusama
3. Yayoi Kusama quotations taken from <http://kusama.site.seattleartmuseum.org>
4. Some photos of Yayoi Kusama's 2017 exhibit at the Seattle Art Museum taken by Audrey Guidi and used here with permission
5. Original LWSD sample art, 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.

