

Art: The Bridge to Storytelling

To nurture
CREATIVITY
CURIOSITY
COMPASSION
COMMUNICATION

YAYOI KUSAMA: BEYOND THE DOTS

The story of an artist who turned her struggles into infinite possibilities

Why She's a Total Boss - Breaking Barriers

Born: March 22, 1929, in Japan, KUSUAMA still creates art today, at the age of 95 and is one of the most popular living female artist in the world.

In 1957, she moved to New York City aged 28, with just a few dollars. She fought sexism in the Art world, created her unique style when nobody understood her Art and turned her mental health challenges into iconic art.



The Dots Story

Imagine seeing patterns everywhere you look - that's what Kusama experienced since childhood. Instead of letting it freak her out, she turned it into her superpower and used dots to show how we're all connected in the universe.

The Power of Polka Dots

- Understanding Dot Patterns
- Each dot represents a moment, memory, or character
- Patterns create rhythm in storytelling
- Colours carry emotional weight
- Size suggests importance or distance
- Spacing implies relationships



For further viewing:

"Infinity Mirrored Room" (2013) at The Broad Museum: www.thebroad.org/visit/mirror-rooms

"Obliteration Room" experience at Tate Modern: www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/yayoi-kusama-8094/yayoi-kusamas-obliteration-room

Museum of Modern Art (MoMA): www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/yayoi-kusama-8094/yayoi-kusamas-obliteration-room

Hirshhorn Museum: <https://hirshhorn.si.edu/exhibitions/one-with-eternity-yayoi-kusama-in-the-hirshhorn-collection/>

Teacher Resources: www.twinkl.com/teaching-wiki/yayoi-kusama



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The Art of Storytelling

The Dancing Dots:

- Draw dots of different sizes
- Let each dot be a character
- How do they move? Meet? Separate?

Colour Story:

- Create a pattern using 3 colors
- What emotion is each color?
- How do they interact?

Growing Pattern:

- Start with one dot
- Let it multiply
- What's growing? Why?

For Different Ages

- Young Children: Focus on colour and basic patterns
- Teens: Explore identity and reflection themes
- Adults: Delve into existential and abstract concepts

The Dot Diary:

Create a dot pattern representing your day, use different:

- Sizes for importance
- Colours for emotions
- Spacing for time

Tell the story of your pattern - Dot Perspective

- "I am a single dot in an infinite pattern..."
- "The day all the dots disappeared..."

Remember:

There are No "right" way to see patterns
Encourage pattern-finding
Welcome abstract connections
Value personal meanings

Reflective Questions:

What stories do you see in repeating patterns?
How does infinity make you feel?
Where do your dots lead?

