

Yayoi Kusama
CV
草間彌生

Yayoi Kusama

Yayoi Kusama began to paint using polka dots and nets as motifs at around age ten, and created fantastic paintings in watercolors, pastels and oils.

She travelled to the United States in 1957 and showed large paintings, soft sculptures, and environmental sculptures using mirrors and electric lights. In the latter 1960s, she staged many happenings such as body painting festivals, fashion shows and anti-war demonstrations. Kusama also launched media-related activities such as film production and newspaper publication. In 1968, the film "Kusama's Self-Obliteration" which she produced and starred in won a prize at the Fourth International Experimental Film Competition in Belgium, the Second Maryland Film Festival and the second prize at the Ann Arbor Film Festival. Meanwhile, she held exhibitions and staged happenings in various countries in Europe.

Kusama finally returned to Japan in 1973. While continuing to produce and show art works, she issued a number of novels and anthologies. In 1983, the novel "The Hustlers Grotto of Christopher Street" won the Tenth Literary Award for New Writers from the monthly magazine *Yasei Jidai*.

In 1986, she held solo exhibitions at the Musée Municipal, Dole; the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Calais, France in 1989; the Center for International Contemporary Arts, New York and the Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, England. In 1993, she officially participated in the 45th Venice Biennale.

Kusama began to create open-air sculptures in 1994 for the Fukuoka Kenko Center; the Fukuoka Municipal Museum of Art; the Bunka-mura on Benesse Island of Naoshima; Kirishima Open-Air Museum and Matsumoto City Museum of Art; the Matsudai Station, Niigata; TGV's Lille-Europe Station; Beverly Gardens Park, Beverly Hills; Pyeonghwa Park, Anyang; and a mural for the subway station in Lisbon.

She started to show works mainly at galleries in New York in 1996. A solo show held in New York in the same year won the Best Gallery Show in 1995/96 and the Best Gallery Show in 1996/97 from the International Association of Art Critics in 1996.

From 1998 to 1999, a major retrospective of Kusama's works opened at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and traveled to the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Walker Art Center and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo.

In 2000, Kusama won The Education Minister's Art Encouragement Prize and Foreign-Minister's Commendations. In the same year, her solo exhibition that opened at Le Consortium in France traveled to Maison de la culture du Japon, Paris; Kunsthallen Brandts Klædefabrik, Denmark; Les Abattoirs, Toulouse; Kunsthalle Wien; and Art Sonje Center, Seoul.

She received the Asahi Prize in 2001, the Medal with Dark Navy Blue Ribbon in 2002, the French Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Officier), and the Nagano Governor Prize (for the contribution in encouragement of art and culture) in 2003.

In 2004, Kusama's solo exhibition "KUSAMATRIX" started at Mori Museum in Tokyo. This exhibition drew a record number of visitors totalling 520,000 people. In the same year, another solo exhibition started at The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, and in 2005 it traveled to The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto; Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art; Contemporary Art Museum, Kumamoto; and the Matsumoto City Museum of Art.

She received the 2006 National Lifetime Achievement Awards, the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette and The Praemium Imperiale -Painting- in 2006.

In 2008, the documentary film "Yayoi Kusama, I adore myself" was released in Japan and screened at international film festivals and museums. Her exhibition tour opened at the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen in Rotterdam, then traveled to Museum of Contemporary Art Sydney and the City Gallery Wellington in 2009. Later that year, Kusama's solo exhibitions were held at the Gagosian Gallery (NY and LA), Victoria Miro Gallery (London) and Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea (Milan). She was also conferred the title Honorary Citizen of Matsumoto City, and as Person of Cultural Merits in Japan.

In 2010, Kusama's solo exhibition and permanent outdoor sculpture was unveiled at the Towada Art Center in Japan. She participated in the Sydney Biennale and Aichi Triennale, and held solo exhibitions at Victoria Miro Gallery in London and fiac in Paris.

The following year in 2011, Kusama held solo exhibitions at Gagosian Gallery (Rome) and Victoria Miro Gallery (London), while her largest Europe and North America retrospective tour started at Museo Nacional Centro De Arte Reina Sofia (Madrid) traveling to Centre Pompidou (Paris), the Tate Modern (London) and the Whitney Museum (New York). She also held a solo exhibition at the Watari Art Museum (Tokyo). In September, she participated in the 2011 Chengdu Biennale and the Queensland Art Gallery (Brisbane) in November.

In 2012, "Eternity of Eternal Eternity", a traveling solo exhibition of her recent works opened at the National Museum of Art, Osaka, and went on to The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama; Matsumoto City Museum of Art, Nagano; and Niigata City Art Museum. She was awarded the Shinjuku Honorary Citizen Award, and The American Academy Of Arts and Letters Foreign Honorary Membership. The same year, she collaborated with Louis Vuitton's creative director Marc Jacobs on the collection "LOUIS VUITTON x YAYOI KUSAMA".

2013 marked the beginning of her Latin America retrospective tour "Yayoi Kusama, Obsesión infinita [Infinite Obsession]" started at Malba – Fundación Costantini (Buenos Aires) which later on traveled to Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil (Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia) and Instituto Tomie Ohtake (São Paulo), Museo Tamayo (Mexico City) through 2014. In addition, "KUSAMA YAYOI, A Dream I Dreamed", an Asia touring exhibition of over 100 recent works opened at the Daegu Art Museum in Korea, followed by the Museum of Contemporary Art Shanghai; Seoul Arts Center; Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, Taiwan; and the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung through 2015. She also held a solo exhibition "I Who Have Arrived In Heaven" at David Zwirner Gallery, New York, in 2013, as well as "KUSAMA YAYOI: A DREAM IN JEJU" at Bonte Museum (Jeju island, Korea).

Most recently she concluded her Scandinavian tour exhibition which took place at Louisiana Museum of Modern Art (Denmark), Henie Onstad Kunstsenter (Norway), Moderna Museet (Sweden), and Helsinki Art Museum (Finland). She also has two ongoing solo exhibitions "YAYOI KUSAMA: My Eternal Soul" at The National Arts Center, Tokyo (until 22 May 2017) and "Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors" at Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington (until 14 May 2017). The upcoming retrospective "YAYOI KUSAMA: Life is the Heart of a Rainbow" at the National Gallery Singapore will take place from 9 June to 3 September 2017.

Curriculum Vitae

1929 Born in Matsumoto, Nagano, Japan

1948 Studied at the Kyoto Municipal Arts and Crafts School

1957 Moved to America

1973 Returned to Japan

Lives and works in Tokyo

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2022 "Yayoi Kusama: DANCING LIGHTS THAT FLEW UP TO THE UNIVERSE" PHI FOUNDATION, Québec, Canada
"Yayoi Kusama: The Place for My Soul " MATSUMOTO CITY MUSEUM OF ART, Nagano, Japan
"Yayoi Kusama 版画の世界" MATSUMOTO CITY MUSEUM OF ART, Nagano prefecture, Japan
"A Poem In My Heart" Yayoi Kusama Museum, Tokyo, Japan
- 2021 "Midway Between Mystery and Symbol: Yayoi Kusama's Monochrome" Yayoi Kusama Museum, Tokyo, Japan
"Yayoi Kusama A Retrospective" Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv, Israel
"KUSAMA: COSMIC NATURE" New York Botanical Gardens, New York, USA
"YAYOI KUSAMA: INFINITY MIRROR ROOMS" Tate Modern, London U.K.
"Yayoi Kusama: A Retrospective" Gropius Bau, Berlin, Germany
"YAYOI KUSAMA: RECENT PAINTINGS" Ota Fine Arts, Singapore
- 2020 – 2021 "THE VISION OF FANTASY THAT WE HAVE NEVER SEEN IS THIS SPLENDOR" Yayoi Kusama Museum, Tokyo, Japan
- 2020 "YAYOI KUSAMA: RECENT PAINTINGS" Ota Fine Arts, Shanghai
"ZERO IS INFINITY ZERO and Yayoi Kusama" Yayoi Kusama Museum, Tokyo, Japan
- 2019 "EVERY DAY I PRAY FOR LOVE" David Zwirner, New York, USA
"SPIRITS OF AGGREGATION" Yayoi Kusama Museum, Tokyo, Japan
"YAYOI KUSAMA The Place for My Soul" Matsumoto City Museum of Art, Nagano, Japan
"HERE, ANOTHER NIGHT COMES FROM TRILLIONS OF LIGHT YEARS AWAY : Eternal Infinity" Yayoi Kusama Museum, Tokyo, Japan
"Yayoi Kusama: All About Love Speaks Forever" Fosun Foundation, Shanghai
"Yayoi Kusama: Prints" Ota Fine Arts, Shanghai
- 2018 - 2019 "YAYOI KUSAMA | THE LONGING FOR MY LOVE ALL BEGAN FROM MY HEART", Ota Fine Arts, Shanghai
"I Want You to Look at My Prospects for the future: Plants and I" Yayoi Kusama Museum, Tokyo, Japan

- 2018 "YAYOI KUSAMA THE MOVING MOMENT WHEN I WENT TO THE UNIVERSE"
Victoria Miro, London, UK
"YAYOI KUSAMA: All About My Love" Matsumoto City Museum of Art,
Nagano, Japan
"Rockaway!" MoMA PS1, New York, USA
- 2017 – 2018 "Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors", Hirshhorn, Washington DC, USA / (toured to)
Seattle Art Museum, USA / The Broad, Los Angeles, USA / Art Gallery of Ontario,
Toronto, Canada / Cleveland Museum of Art, Ohio, USA / High Museum of Art,
Atlanta, USA
"YAYOI KUSAMA: Life is the Heart of a Rainbow", National Gallery Singapore,
Singapore / (toured to) Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia / Museum
MACAN, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2017 "YAYOI KUSAMA: My Eternal Soul", the National Art Centre, Tokyo
- 2016 "In Infinity", Helsinki Art Museum, Helsinki
"Yayoi Kusama: Dots Obsession", Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah
"Yayoi Kusama: Narcissus Garden", The Glass House, New Canaan, CT, USA
"Yayoi Kusama The Place for My Soul", Matsumoto City Museum
"IN INFINITY" Moderna Museet, Stockholm
- 2015 - 2017 "Yayoi Kusama, IN INFINITY", Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk,
Denmark / Henie-Onstad Kunstsenter, Høvikodden, Norway (travelling to);
Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden (2016); Helsinki Art Museum, Finland
(2016 – 2017)
- 2015 "Infinity Theory", Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow
"Give Me Love", David Zwirner, New York
- 2013 - 2015 "Yayoi Kusama: Obsessão Infinita", Malba - Fundacion Constantini, Buenos
Aires / (toured to) Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, Rio de Janeiro / Centro
Cultural Banco do Brasil, Brasília / Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo / Museo
Tamayo Arte Contemporáneo, Mexico City / Fundación CorpArtes, Santiago
"KUSAMA YAYOI, A Dream I Dreamed", Daegu Art Museum, Korea / (toured to)
Museum of Contemporary Art Shanghai / Seoul Arts Center / Kaohsiung
Museum of Fine Arts, Kaohsiung, Taiwan / National Taiwan Museum of Fine
Arts, Taichung
- 2014 "A Dream in Jeju", Bonte Museum, Seogwipo, South Korea
"Yayoi Kusama", Ota Fine Arts, Singapore
"YAYOI KUSAMA X HOTEL TAKARASO", Dogo Onsenart, Shikoku, Japan
"Yayoi Kusama: Pumpkins", Victoria Miro, London, U.K.
- 2012 - 2014 "YAYOI KUSAMA: ETERNITY OF ETERNAL ETERNITY", The National Museum of
Art, Osaka, Japan / (toured to) The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama /
Matsumoto City Museum of Art, Matsumoto / Niigata City Art Museum, Niigata /
Shizuoka Prefectural Museum of Art, Shizuoka / Oita Art Museum, Oita / The
Museum of Art, Kochi / Contemporary Art Museum, Kumamoto / Akita Senshu
Museum of Art, Akita / Matsuzakaya Museum, Nagoya
- 2013 "Yayoi Kusama: I Who Have Arrived In Heaven", David Zwirner, New York,
U.S.A.
- 2012 "Yayoi Kusama", Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, U.S.A.
"Yayoi Kusama", Tate Modern, London, U.K.

- "Yayoi Kusama: Look Now, See Forever", Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA),
Brisbane
- 2011 "Yayoi Kusama", Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain
"Yayoi Kusama: Look Now, See Forever", Gallery of Modern Art, Queensland,
Australia
"YAYOI KUSAMA Kusama's Body Festival in 60's", WATARI-UM, Tokyo
- 2010 Art Towada Grand Opening Memorial Exhibition "YAYOI KUSAMA Singing in
Towada", Towada Art Center, Aomori, Japan
- 2009 "YAYOI KUSAMA I WANT TO LIVE FOREVER", Padiglione d'Arte
Contemporanea, Milan, Italy
- 2008 "Yayoi Kusama: Mirrored Years", Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam/
toured to Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney/ City Gallery of Wellington, New
Zealand
- 2007 "Yayoi Kusama, Dots Obsession - Dots Transformed into Love", Haus der Kunst,
Munich, Germany
"Yayoi Kusama", Victoria Miro Gallery, London, U.K.
- 2004 "KUSAMATRIX", Mori Art Museum Tokyo/ toured to Museum of Contemporary
Art, Sapporo, Japan
"Yayoi Kusama: Eternity-Modernity", The National Museum of Modern Art,
Tokyo, Japan/ toured to The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Japan/
Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art/ Contemporary Art Museum,
Kumamoto/ Matsumoto City Museum of Art
- 2003 "YAYOI KUSAMA", Kunstverein Braunschweig, Germany
- 2000 "Yayoi Kusama", Serpentine Gallery, London, U.K.
"Yayoi Kusama", Le consortium, Dijon, France / toured to Maison de la culture
du Japon, Paris/ Kunsthallen Brandts Klædefabrik, Odense, Denmark/ Les
Abattoirs, Toulouse/ Kunsthalle Vienna/ Art Sonke Center, Seoul/ Art Sonje
Museum, Gyeongju
- 1998 "Love Forever: Yayoi Kusama 1958-1968", Los Angeles County Museum of Art/
toured to The Museum of Modern art, New York/ Walker Art Center,
Minneapolis/ Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo
- 1993 "Yayoi Kusama", The 45th Venice Biennale, Japanese Pavillion, Venice
- 1989 "Yayoi Kusama: A Retrospective", Center of International Contemporary Arts,
New York
"Yayoi Kusama, Soul Burning Flashes", Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, England
- 1987 "Yayoi Kusama", Kitakyusyu Municipal Museum of Art, Fukuoka, Japan
- 1986 "Yayoi Kusama", Musée de Beaux-Arts de Calais, France

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2020 "From the Collection of NCAM: YAYOI KUSAMA + the Japanese Artists Who Lived in USA", Niigata City Art Museum, Japan
- 2019 "Where We Now Stand–In Order to Map the Future [2] ", 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan
"Bangkok Art Biennale 2018", Bangkok, Thailand
- 2018 "Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors", High Museum, Atlanta, USA
- 2017 "The Obliteration Room", National Gallery Singapore, Singapore
"The Universe of TAKAHASHI COLLECTION", Contemporary Art Museum, Kumamoto
- 2016 "On the Origin of Art", Museum of Old and New Art, Tasmania
"Takahashi Collection 2016 mindfulness!" The Museum of Art, Kochi
"Introduction of Contemporary Art -Takahashi Collection-", Kanazu Sousaku no Mori
- 2015 "COSMOS INTIMATE - Takahashi Collection Maison du la Culture do Japon", Maison de la culture du Japon, Paris
"Messages - Takahashi Collection", Towada Art Center, Aomori
"I Love Art 13 - 100 artists from the WATARI-UM collection", WATARI-UM, Tokyo
"TAKAHASHI COLLECTION: Mirror Neuron", Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery
- 2014 "LOGICAL EMOTION - CONTEMPORARY ART FROM JAPAN", Museum Haus Konstruktiv
"TAKAHASHI COLLECTION 2014 Mindfulness!", Nagoya City Art Museum, Nagoya, Japan
"ZERO: Countdown to Tomorrow, 1950s-60s", Guggenheim Museum, New York, U.S.A.
- 2013 "LOVE", Mori Museum, Japan
"VISCERAL SENSATION - VOICES SO FAR, SO NEAR", 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa
"MARSEILLE-PROVENCE 2013", Aix-en-Provence
"From Yayoi Kusama to Yoshitomo Nara: The Pleasure of Contemporary Art", Takamatsu City Museum of Art, Kagawa
- 2012 "The First Kyiv International Biennale ARSENALE 2012", Mystetskyj Arsenal: Cultural-Art and Museum Complex, Kyiv, Ukraine
"Double Vision: Contemporary Art From Japan", Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Moscow, Russia
- 2011 "Chengdu Biennale 2011", Chengdu, China
- 2010 "Aichi Triennale", Aichi Arts Center, Oasis 21, Nagoya, Japan
"Biennale of Sydney", Sydney, Australia

2006	"Singapore Biennale", Singapore
2005	"Bielal de Valencia", Valencia, Spain
2004	"The 2001 Whitney Biennale", Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, U.S.A.
2001	"International Triennale of Contemporary Art YOKOHAMA 2001", Yokohama, Japan
2000	"Biennale of Sydney", Sydney, Australia

Selected Public Collections

21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa
Bonte Museum, Jeju
Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York
Daegu Art Museum, Daegu
Fukuoka Art Museum, Fukuoka
Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow
Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles
Louis Vuitton Foundation
Louisiana Museum, Denmark
Moderna Museet, Stockholm
Musée National d'art moderne, Center George Pompidou, Paris, France
Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Naoshima Contemporary Art Museum, Kagawa
Philadelphia Art Association and Museum, Provincetown, Massachusetts
Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
Shanghai MoCA, Shanghai
Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah
Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam
Tate Modern, London
The Broad, Los Angeles
The Israel Museum, Jerusalem
The Museum of Modern Art, New York
The National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
Worcester Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts