Abstract art may look very different from traditional pieces you are used to seeing in museums. Abstract means art that does not show things exactly how they look in real life, but can often depict emotion and ideas. Abstract art requires a deeper look at the artist’s purpose in order to understand it. *Infinity Dots* may look simple but it is far more complex than it seems!

*Infinity Dots* displays Kusama’s favorite art motif: dots! Infinity means a number that is larger than any known countable numbers. Abstract artist Yayoi Kusama uses thousands of tiny dots and simple but vivid color to capture the feeling of infinity. In this painting, the dots overwhelm the viewer and invites them to see the world through her eyes.

Kusama is known for her obsession with dots and mirrors, and thinks of herself as an “obsessional artist”. The piece *Infinity Dots* is a single dot pattern repeated over four panels for what appears to be an infinite amount of times. Why do you think Kusama chose four large canvases to paint her visions of dots? If you could choose one shape to paint an infinite amount of times what would it be and why?

**PERSONAL FLAIR**

Artists develop their own identity over the span of their career. Sometimes we can instantly recognize an artist by the visual identity they build. An artist’s visual identity directly determines their style.

Kusama’s visual identity is in her dots, she believes that the dots represent her obsessive personality and minimalistic style. Almost all of Kusama’s works incorporate her famous dots. That’s how we recognize her!

We all show the world our identity by how we choose to dress and the things we like. Can you list more ways that we show our identity?
BUILD SOMETHING!

Abstraction is the practice of combining simplicity and technique into one image. Put yourself in Yayoi Kusama’s shoes and envision a single shape or a single object you adore. Once you have your image in mind, begin drawing until your work fills the edges of the canvas. The goal is to make your image continue for infinity!

DIRECTIONS

1. Begin with an empty piece of paper. Imagine your design spilling over the edges of your paper just like Kusama’s.

2. Add dot stickers or draw repeating shapes all over the canvas. Begin at the center and let your repeating pattern spill out to the very edge of the paper.

DISCUSSION

Ask yourself these questions:

3. Why do you think you prefer to paint in your own style versus someone else’s?

4. Why do you think artists choose to paint in a particular style?

5. How does your artwork use pattern to create visual elements?

Now that we have explored infinity through art, why do you think Kusama chose *Infinity Dots* to title her artwork? Below is a picture of Kusama and her legendary dots.