



INFINITY DOTS

Abstract art may look very different from traditional pieces you are used to seeing in museums. **Abstract** means art that does not have a clear idea but still shows emotionally charged imagery. 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 medium: dots! **Infinity** means a number that is larger than any known countable numbers. Abstract artist Yayoi Kusama uses what appears to be hundreds of tiny dots or adds color to her artwork to capture this effect. 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 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?

Image Credit: *Infinity Dots*. Yayoi Kusama. 1993.
Promised gift of Keith D. and Linda L. Monda.
TR2018.3121.4.

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?



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More Dots!

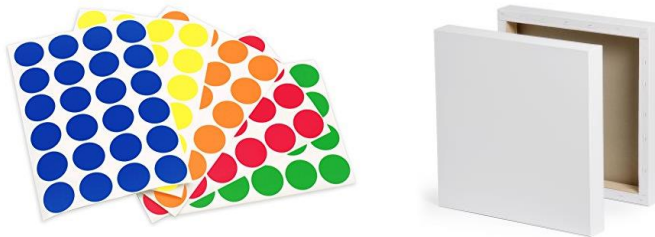
Abstraction is the practice of combining simplicity and technique into one image. Put yourself in Yayoi Kusama's shoes and envision a single shape or a single object you adore. Once you have your image in mind, begin drawing until your work fills the edges of the canvas. The goal is to make your image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

Materials:

Blank paper

Dot stickers or shapes

Colored pencils



Process:

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:

- Why do you think you prefer to paint in your own style versus someone else's?
- Why do you think artists choose to paint in a particular style?
- We all like to listen to music while we work, how does your art style change when you listen to different genres of music?

Now that we have explored infinity through art, why do you think Kusama chose *Infinity Dots* to title her artwork?

- To the right is a picture of Kusama and her legendary dots.

