

# 1st Grade Art Lesson Plan

Lesson Title: Yayoi Kusama Pumpkins



- Objectives: 1. Learn about Yayoi Kusama's art with Dots  
2. Review the difference of a circle and dot  
3. Define SCALE and apply it to a project

## SKILL FOCUS

- Cutting
- Painting variety of scale
- Gluing

## SUPPLIES

- Scissors
- Black Crayon
- Printed Pumpkins
- Dowels (3 sizes)
- K & W Paint Cups
- Paint Mats
- Paint Aprons
- White Crayons
- Colored Paper

Art History: Pumpkin, 1991

Modern Artist: Yayoi Kusama

Literature: Yayoi Kusama Covered Everything in Dots and Wasn't Sorry by Fausto Gilberti  
Yayoi Kusama from Here to Infinity by Sarah Suzuki

Yayoi Kusama born March 22, 1929 (age 93 years), Matsumoto, Nagano, Japan

Nationality: Japanese / Born into a family of merchants who owned a plant nursery and seed farm.

Kusama began drawing pictures of pumpkins in elementary school.

She was fascinated by the smooth white stones covering the bed of the river near her family home, which she cites as an influence behind her lasting fixation on dots.

Trained at the Kyoto City University of Arts in a traditional Japanese painting style called nihonga.

Kusama was inspired by American Abstract impressionism.

She moved to New York City in 1958; 1973 returned to Japan and stayed ever since.

Vocabulary: Scale - how big or small the piece is in relation to us. Related to the human body for sculpture.

Nihonga - the traditional Japanese style of painting, using traditional materials and techniques

## National Visual Arts Standards for 1st Grade

### CREATING

- Engage collaboratively in exploration and imaginative play with materials
- Use observation and investigation in preparation for making a work of art.
- Explore uses of materials and tools to create works of art or design
- Demonstrate safe and proper procedures for using materials tools, and equipment while making art.
- Identify and classify uses of everyday objects through drawings, diagrams, sculptures, or other visual means.
- Use art vocabulary to describe choices while creating art.

### PRESENTING

- Explain why some objects, artifacts, and artwork are valued over others.
- Ask and answer questions such as where, when, why and how artwork should be prepared for presentation or preservation.
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of people who work in and visit museums and other art venues.

### RESPONDING

- Select and describe works of art that illustrate daily life experiences of one's self and others.
- Compare images that represent the same object.
- Interpret art by categorizing subject matter and identifying the characteristics of form.
- Classify artwork based on different reasons for preferences.

### CONNECTING

- Identify times, places, and reasons by which students make art outside of school.
- Understand that people from different places and times have made art for a variety of reasons.

## I Can Statements:

I can apply scale by using a variety of dot sizes.

## Artwork Outline:

### DAY 1 - Painting and Prepping

Learn about Yayoi Kusama

Look at examples of sculpture and paintings of pumpkins

Review the difference between a circle - outline - and a dot - filled in (hula hoop vs. ball)

Define Scale looking at dots (Large, Medium, Small dots)

In table bins: Copy of Pumpkin, scissors, black crayon

1. Cut a Pumpkin Shape

2. Draw curved lines down your pumpkin (4, not 10, to make it feel round)

Write your name on the back

Go over paint aprons, paint mats, not breaking dowels, setting them on the paint mat

3. Paint DOTS using SCALE

When done painting dots in a row - like buttons on a snowman, raise hand

Collect dowels and paint, put paint mat and pumpkin on drying rack

4. Students choose a background color and draw triangles or crossing lines

### DAY 2 - Putting it Together

Supplies: glue stick, table folders w/ background & pumpkin,

background papers, black and white crayons

Review Scale and Yayoi Kusama - what she loved...dots!

Pass back background and painted pumpkins

Students who were absent choose pre-painted pumpkin / background color

Glue pumpkin onto background by circling the perimeter with glue.

Watch Read-a-loud Yayoi Kusama Covered Everything in Dots and Wasn't Sorry by Fausto Gilberti

Students finish background and glue pumpkin if they are not done while the story is

## Resources & Notes

PumpkinPattern.pdf

Slide: 1\_YayoiKusama\_Pumpkin

## Lesson Closure:

1. Yayoi Kusama followed her dream to be an artist.
2. Scale can be applied to art projects for variety.
3. Shapes