

Yayoi's Hallucinations

Kusama's signature piece, the *Yellow Coloured Pumpkin* is part of a recurring theme amongst her works. The artist was the first Japanese woman to receive the prestigious Praemium Imperiale prize and in 2008 broke the record at Christies to become the highest billing living female artist at auction (US\$5.1 million for one piece).

During World War II, the pumpkin was one of the most readily available food products and one most familiar to Kusama. In a culture known for its perfection of symmetrical fruits, Kusama admired the unique shape of each pumpkin. No two pumpkins are the same.

"A polka dot has the form of the sun which is a symbol of the energy of the whole world and our living life, and also the form of the moon which is calm, round, soft, colorful, senseless and unknowing. Polka dots can't stay alone, like the communicative life of people. Two and three and more polka dots become a movement.

Our earth is only one polka dot among the million stars in the cosmos.

Polka dots are the way to infinity. When we obliterate nature and our bodies with polka dots, We become part of the unity and of our environment.

I become part of the eternal, and we obliterate ourselves in love.

— Yayoi Kusama, Japan

The Yellow Coloured Pumpkin and Yayoi Kusama's other works can be viewed at Pop and Contemporary Fine Art, #03-12 Palais National, 390 Orchard Road, www.popandcontemporaryart.com

