

YAYOI KUSAMA FOUNDATION

一般財団法人草間彌生記念芸術財団

November 2, 2018

Yayoi Kusama Foundation

Yayoi Kusama, Director

Declaration against Exhibitions of Forged Yayoi Kusama Works

An investigation by the Yayoi Kusama Foundation has revealed that forgeries of the works of prominent international artist Yayoi Kusama have been exhibited in multiple locations around China as recently as September 2018 without the permission of the artist or the Foundation. These unauthorized exhibitions have been held under titles including “草間彌生×村上隆双联展” (Joint Exhibition of Yayoi Kusama and Takashi Murakami) in Shanghai and Changsha of Hunan Province.

The Foundation hereby makes a declaration against the actions of the organizers of these exhibitions, which consist of forgeries and in every case have been held without the permission of Yayoi Kusama or the Foundation. The forgeries on display have caused significant damage to the international brand and reputation of Yayoi Kusama. Such actions are a serious infringement of the artist's copyright and international fame and brand and harm the interests of the Foundation. These dishonest acts are a violation of public morals and decency of a notably malicious nature, and are a contemptible transgression of the originality and copyrights of all artists. We therefore strongly condemn these actions.

The exhibition referenced above has already been suspended as a result of the Foundation's declaration. However, there are reports that fake exhibitions of this kind have also taken place in locations such as Shenzhen, Guangzhou of Guangdong Province, Wuhan of Hubei Province, Suzhou of Jiangsu Province, Tianjin, Qingdao, Zibo of Shandong Province, Chongqing, and Xinjiang without the permission of Yayoi Kusama or the Foundation. Other similar cases are currently under investigation too.

Yayoi Kusama reserves all of her intellectual properties (including, but not limited to, copyrights, name rights, and reputation rights), and no organization or person may use any of those rights without the permission of Yayoi Kusama or the Foundation.

Yayoi Kusama and the Foundation will continue to actively protect all rights pertaining to Yayoi Kusama and her works, and encourage art experts, art museums and galleries to be vigilant so as not to become involved in illegal acts such as these.

Any individual with information about a suspected unauthorized exhibition of forged works is asked to contact the Foundation at the address below. In order to protect the interests of consumers and collectors, please direct any inquiries regarding the authenticity of Yayoi Kusama's works to the address below.

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Information regarding exhibitions of forged Yayoi Kusama works:

Yayoi Kusama Foundation: fe@yayoikusamamuseum.jp

Inquiries regarding the authenticity of Yayoi Kusama works:

Yayoi Kusama Inc.: registration@yayoi-kusama.jp

*Verification of authenticity of Yayoi Kusama works is available at a charge.

Comments from Yayoi Kusama:

I am very shocked to hear that forgeries of my works have been displayed across China and many people visited these sites, believing these to be exhibitions of my works.

This is such a disappointing situation that my creations, which I've devoted my entire life to, have been plagiarized and exposed to everyone in an improper form.

To the people of China, to everyone around the world, please stop such fraudulent exhibitions immediately.

Please experience the authentic presentation of my original artworks with your own eyes.

It is my sincere wish that we can overcome these challenges and create the greatest world together.

Yayoi Kusama

Comments from Akira Tatehata, Director of YAYOI KUSAMA MUSEUM:

The art of Yayoi Kusama has been showcased all over the world over the past few decades. Kusama's artistic practice through which she endeavors to save the world with her love, has now gained support from people of all age and gender.

Forged works and fraudulent exhibitions of an avant-garde artist with such international recognition are a serious infringement of the artist's copyright. Such actions also cause significant damage to the development of art in general.

In view of the further developments of the arts and culture in China, I sincerely ask everyone to respect an artist's copyrights and not to be involved with such dishonest acts.

Akira Tatehata
Director
YAYOI KUSAMA MUSEUM

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Comparison between authentic works and forgeries:



<Authentic>

Yayoi Kusama

Dots Obsession

2015

Mixed media

Dimensions variable

Installation View: Louisiana Museum, Denmark 2015.

Courtesy: YAYOI KUSAMA FOUNDATION, Ota Fine Arts

©YAYOI KUSAMA



<Forged>

Installation View: Shanghai LuOne

Courtesy: YAYOI KUSAMA FOUNDATION



<Authentic>

Yayoi Kusama

Dots Obsession - Day

2008

Mixed media

Dimensions variable

Installation View: "JAPAN! CULTURE + HYPER CULTURE"

at The Kennedy Center, Washington D.C.

Courtesy: YAYOI KUSAMA FOUNDATION

©YAYOI KUSAMA



<Forged>

Installation View: Changsha Hisense Plaza

Courtesy: YAYOI KUSAMA FOUNDATION

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<Authentic>

Yayoi Kusama

The Obliteration Room

2002-present

Furniture, white paint, dot stickers

Dimensions variable

Collaboration between Yayoi Kusama and Queensland Art Gallery.

Commissioned Queensland Art Gallery. Gift of the artist through the Queensland Art Gallery Foundation 2012. Collection: Queensland Art Gallery, Australia

Photograph: Natasha Harth

Image courtesy: QAGOMA, YAYOI KUSAMA FOUNDATION

©YAYOI KUSAMA



<Forged>

Installation View: Shanghai LuOne

Courtesy: YAYOI KUSAMA FOUNDATION

Hi-resolution images:

Authentic works of Yayoi Kusama:

<https://bit.ly/2RICYmt>

*Please download the images and credit lines.

Forgeries:

<https://bit.ly/2EUPV5g>

*Please download the images and put a credit line "Courtesy: YAYOI KUSAMA FOUNDATION".

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List of exhibitions that may include forgeries: *There are other exhibitions currently under investigation.

#	Host City	Host Place	Name of Exhibition	Exhibition Time
1	Shenzhen	Shenzhen All City	YAYOI KUSAMA & MURAKAMI TAKASHI JOINT ART EXHIBITION Shenzhen Station	Nov. 26 - Dec. 10, 2017
2	Qingdao	Qingdao Hisense Plaza	YAYOI KUSAMA X MURAKAMI TAKASHI JOINT ART EXHIBITION Qingdao Station	Mar. 23 - May 4, 2018
3	Wuhan	Wuhan Dongyuan Lejian City	YAYOI KUSAMA X MURAKAMI TAKASHI Collection JOINT ART EXHIBITION Wuhan Station	May 26 – Jun. 10, 2018
4	Tianjin	GALAXY MALL TIANJIN	YAYOI KUSAMA X MURAKAMI TAKASHI WORK JOINT ART EXHIBITION	Apr. 16 - Apr. 30, 2018
5	Shanghai	Shanghai LuOne	YAYOI KUSAMA & MURAKAMI TAKASHI JOINT ART EXHIBITION	Sep. 22 - Oct. 21, 2018 (Discontinued from Oct. 1, 2018)
6	Changsha	Changsha Hisense Plaza	YAYOI KUSAMA X MURAKAMI TAKASHI WORK JOINT ART EXHIBITION	Sep. 19 - Nov. 8, 2018 (Discontinued from Oct. 25, 2018)
7	Guangzhou	I-club Yue Hai Chung Chung Hui	International Pop Art Master Work Joint Exhibition	Oct. 8 - Nov. 11, 2018

Profile of Yayoi Kusama:

Avant-garde artist and novelist. Born in 1929 in Matsumoto City, Nagano Prefecture. From a young age, Yayoi Kusama experienced visual and auditory hallucinations, and began creating net and polka-dot pattern pictures. In 1957, she went to the United States and began making net paintings and soft sculptures, as well as organizing happenings and developing installations that made use of mirrors and lights, establishing herself as an avant-garde artist. Overcoming various obsessions, she discovered an artistic philosophy of self-obliteration via the obsessive repetition and multiplication of single motifs. She has held exhibitions at various museums throughout the world, and in recent years her large-scale retrospective exhibitions at the Tate Modern and Pompidou Centre have elicited considerable responses. She recorded more than 2 million visitors to her tours in Latin America and Asia, which led to her being named the 'world's most popular artist in 2014' by the Art Newspaper. In 2016, she received Japan's Order of Culture. In 2017, a North American tour of her work started at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C.