

YAYOI KUSAMA MUSEUM

草間彌生美術館

草間彌生 闘う女／絵を描く少女

Yayoi Kusama: Fighting Woman / Painting Girl

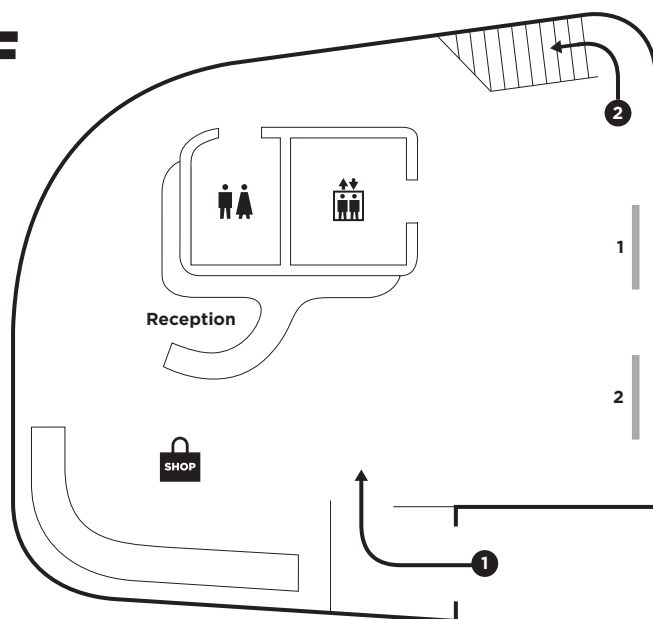
OCT 16, 2025 - MAR 8, 2026

From her earliest years, Yayoi Kusama found her greatest joy in drawing. Over the course of her long career, her artistic practice has evolved in a variety of ways. This exhibition identifies two distinct facets of Kusama's identity as revealed through her work—"the fighting woman" and "the innocent girl"—and traces how these personas have emerged and transformed over time.

In 1957, Kusama moved to the United States, embarking upon an uncompromising practice within an art world then dominated by white male artists, where she positioned herself with fierce resolve as a minority—an Asian woman. During her New York years—a period in which she must have been acutely aware of her own identity—Kusama produced a substantial body of ambitious works that confronted both herself and the society around her as a woman. Following her return to Japan in 1973, she re-engaged with painting—a practice she had set aside in the late 1960s—with renewed intensity. In her recent works, a pronounced girl-like sense of innocence is evident, expressed through vivid colors, playful figural depictions, and other similar elements.

The exhibition brings together early drawings; *Aggregation* sculptures created as acts of overcoming a fear of sex rooted in past trauma; and archival records of her provocative nude performances and fashion projects, which openly challenged prevailing social norms and sexual mores. From her more recent works, it presents a series of paintings produced with notable intensity, as though rendering the depths of her inner world; three-dimensional works depicting girl and flower that appear to give tangible form to her imaginative realm; together with her world-premiere creation, a small-scale mirrored room. We invite visitors to experience Kusama's multifaceted creative universe, where a fearless spirit that challenges the times coexists with the ingenuousness of a young girl.

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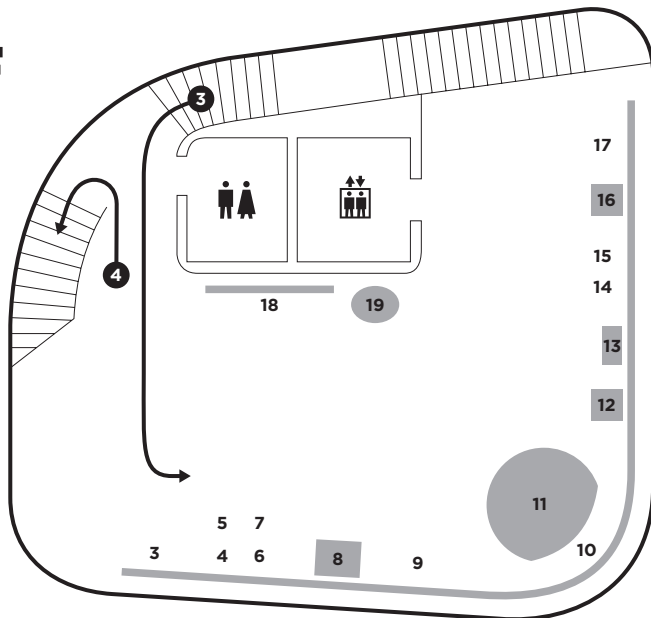
1 14th Street Happening

1966
Performance documented
with color slides
29 slides
Photo: Eikoh Hosoe

2 Walking Piece

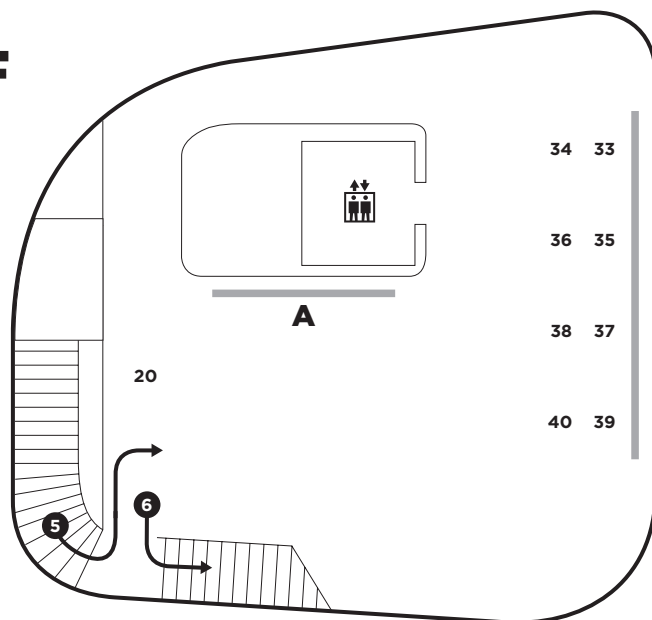
c.1966
Performance documented
with color slides
24 slides
Photo: Eikoh Hosoe

2F

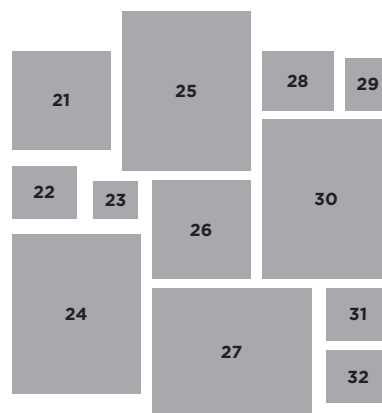


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|----|---|----|--|----|--|----|---|
| 3 | Documentation including Kusama's soft sculptures from her years in the U.S. (1960s) | 7 | FLOWER X.P
1953
Pastel, gouache on paper
25.3 × 21.2 cm | 11 | Desire of Death
1975–76
Sewn stuffed fabric, household objects, steel trays, enamel paint
A set of 10 pieces, dimensions variable | 14 | Curtain Rising
1994
Collage, acrylic paint, paper, sewn stuffed fabric, mesh, wood, fabric
63 × 45 × 10 cm |
| 4 | A Flower #4
1952
Pastel, gouache on paper
26.4 × 19.5 cm | 8 | THE NIGHT
1983
Sewn stuffed fabric, wood, paint
180 × 60.8 × 39.5 cm | 12 | Untitled
1983
Sewn stuffed fabric, shoes, paint, lamé
27.5 × 8.5 × 25.5 cm,
29.5 × 9.5 × 25 cm | 15 | Dream of the Sea
1994
Collage, acrylic paint, mesh, wood, fabric
63 × 45 × 10 cm |
| 5 | FLOWER HEAD
1953
Pastel, gouache on paper
32 × 29.7 cm | 9 | SEX OBSESSION
2003
Sewn stuffed fabric, frame, enamel paint
63 × 55.5 × 17 cm | 13 | A Heart
2003
Urethane foam, urethane paint, wood, fabric, artificial flowers
77 × 47 × 13.7 cm | 16 | Butterfly (T.W.A.N.)
1999
Sewn stuffed fabric, synthetic fiber, box, fake butterfly, paint
34 × 33 × 31 cm |
| 6 | Flower
1953–63
Pastel, gouache on paper
34 × 28.5 cm | 10 | BEYOND MY ILLUSION (PARTY)
1997
Sewn stuffed fabric, household objects, wood, paint
184 × 183 × 20 cm | | | 17 | Butterfly and I
2001
Graphite on paper
32.5 × 25.5 cm |
| 18 | Documentation introducing Kusama's nude performances and fashions in the late 1960s | 19 | Untitled (A dress created for the Kusama Fashion Project in collaboration with graf)
2002
Fabric | | | | |

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wall A



20 Yayoi-chan
2013
Mixed media
350 × 140 × 140 cm

21 BEHOLD THE FIGURE OF ONE WHO SURVIVED ISOLATION BEAUTIFULLY
2020
Acrylic on canvas
100 × 100 cm

22 girls (AAA)
2004
Acrylic, marker pen on canvas
53 × 65.2 cm

23 Love Forever
2004
Acrylic, marker pen on canvas
38 × 45.5 cm

24 SELF-PORTRAIT (KIBTO)
2012
Acrylic on canvas
162 × 130.3 cm

25 FLOWERING NEW YORK (OPRT)
2005
Screenprint on canvas
162 × 130.3 cm

26 WHEN I DISCOVERED THE JOY OF LIVING IN OBSCURITY
2020
Acrylic on canvas
100 × 100 cm

27 LOVE FOREVER (TAOW)
2004
Screenprint on canvas
130.3 × 162 cm

28 Days When I Am Alive
2004
Acrylic, marker pen on canvas
60.6 × 72.7 cm

29 Self-portrait
2004
Acrylic, marker pen on canvas
53 × 45.5 cm

30 SELF-PORTRAIT (PWAL)
2012
Acrylic on canvas
162 × 130.3 cm

31 Joy of Life
2004
Acrylic, marker pen on canvas
53 × 65.2 cm

32 Girls
2004
Acrylic, marker pen on canvas
53 × 65.2 cm

33 I SHED TEARS FOR MY PAINFUL MEMORIES, NOW
2017
Acrylic on canvas
194 × 194 cm

35 GARDEN OF WOMEN IN BLOOMING YOUTH
2018
Acrylic on canvas
194 × 194 cm

37 DREAMS OF THE GIRLS
2016
Acrylic on canvas
194 × 194 cm

39 TALK ABOUT LOVE AT THE END OF A JOURNEY
2017
Acrylic on canvas
194 × 194 cm

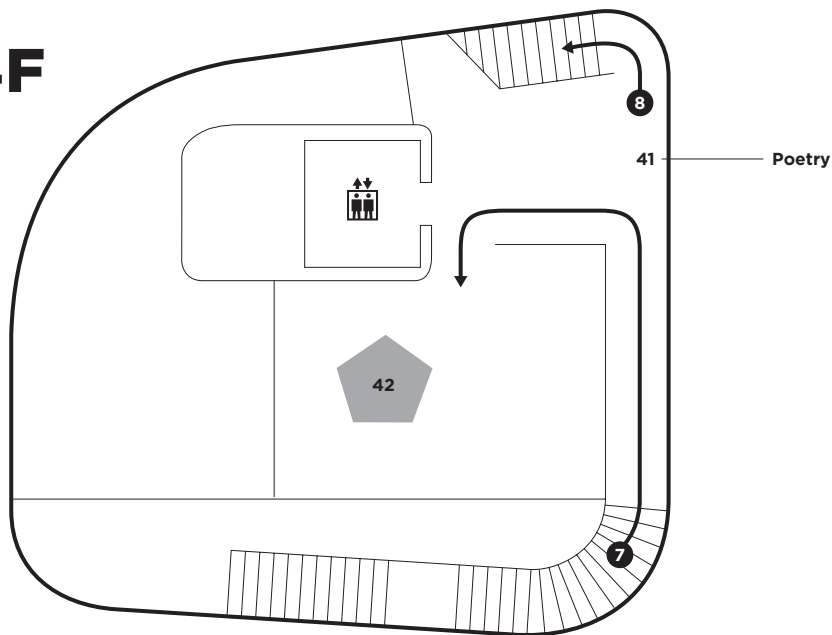
34 I WANT TO GAZE AT MY HEART
2013
Acrylic on canvas
194 × 194 cm

36 I WANT TO GIVE YOU BILLIONS OF SPARKLES OF MY LOVE
2017
Acrylic on canvas
194 × 194 cm

38 EVERYTHING ABOUT MY CHILDHOOD
2016
Acrylic on canvas
194 × 194 cm

40 I AM NOW ENCOUNTERING MY LATER LIFE
2017
Acrylic on canvas
194 × 194 cm

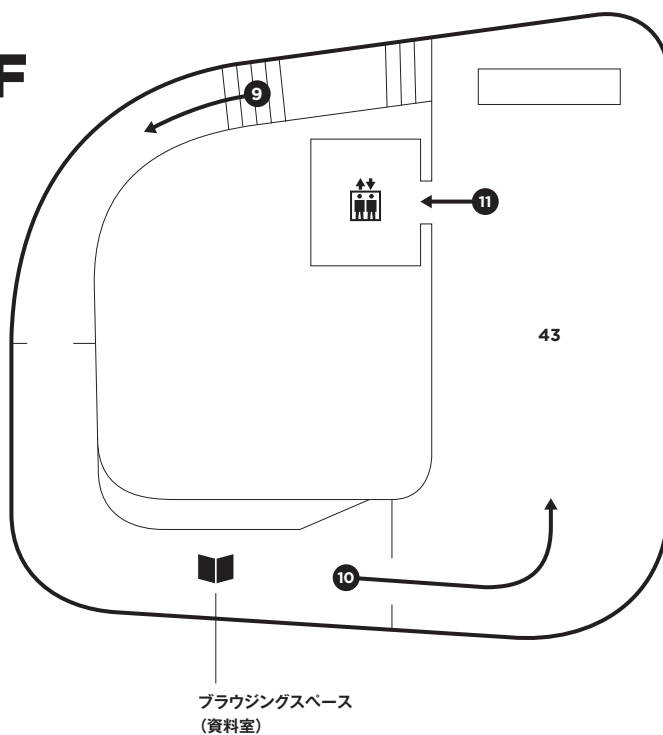
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**41 After the Battle, I Want to Die
at the End of the Universe**
2007
Translated by Sachie Gocho

**42 Phantom Polka Dots of Fate,
Ordained by Heaven,
Were the Greatest Gift Ever for Me**
2021
Stainless steel, aluminum, mirror,
glass, acrylic, F.R.P., sticker, LED,
polystyrene foam
210 × 123.3 × 129.6 cm

5F



43 Flowers that Bloom Tomorrow
2016
F.R.P., urethane paint, metal
290 × 205 × 185 cm