

PRESS RELEASE

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SAM PRESENTS PROGRAMS AND EVENTS FOR YAYOI KUSAMA: INFINITY MIRRORS

Explore immersive exhibition on legendary artist Yayoi Kusama with talks, film screenings, and studio sessions with local artists



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SEATTLE, WA - *Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors* (June 30–September 10, 2017) explores the 65-year career of the legendary contemporary Japanese artist, featuring five of her immersive, multi-reflective Infinity Mirror Rooms alongside works on paper, sculptures, and large-scale paintings from the 1950s to the present. In conjunction with the exhibition, SAM has assembled a dynamic lineup of programs and events—including talks with community partners, archival film screenings, and collaborative art-making sessions.

YAYOI KUSAMA: INFINITY MIRRORS PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Details are subject to change; additional programs or events may be added. Go to visitsam.org/kusama for the most up-to-date information.

Every Sun, Jul 2–Sep 10

Drop-In Studio: Infinite Reflections

11 am–1 pm

Seattle Art Museum

A series of drop-in studio sessions featuring demonstrations by local artists and an opportunity for hands-on art-making. Expert teaching artists will explore themes and ideas found in *Infinity Mirrors* and connections to their own work and processes.

- Jul 2 & 9: Junko Yamamoto
- Jul 16, 23, & 30: Ellen Ziegler
- Aug 6, 13, & 20: Celeste Cooning
- Aug 27, Sep 3 & 10: Regina Schilling

Presented by Delta Air Lines and Target.

Wed Jul 12

Infinity Flower: Yayoi Kusama's Films and Videos

7:30–9:30 pm

Seattle Art Museum

This evening of films and videos explores Yayoi Kusama's experimental, political, and deeply personal view of the world. A forerunner of the Pop Art movement, Kusama was part of the 1960s New York "happenings" culture. Her films sample that scene and chronicle her lifelong obsession with journeying beyond individual ego into infinity. Includes clips from Kusama's *Self*



Obliteration (1967), *Love in Festival* (1968), *Flower Orgy* (1968), and *Yayoi Kusama: I Adore Myself* (2008).

Thu Jul 13

Pom-Pom Garden Installation

6-8 pm

Volunteer Park Amphitheater

As part of the Volunteer Park Trust's annual Picnic in the Park, SAM's Gardner Center for Asian Art and Ideas invites visitors to make their own pom-poms with artist Naomi Kasumi. Add your work to a group "dandelion garden" installation on the lawn, creating a community artwork in connection with the downtown SAM exhibition *Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors*.

Every Thu & Sat, Jul 13-Aug 31

Summer at SAM

Thu 6-8 pm; Sat 9 am-3 pm

Olympic Sculpture Park

SAM presents a free summer season packed full of activities and performances that combine visual art, music, and community. This season celebrates the sculpture park's 10th anniversary and is inspired by *Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors* downtown and new installations on view at the sculpture park. Free and open to the public.

Sat Jul 15

3D Dot Immersion Workshop

11 am-2 pm

Seattle Art Museum

Be inspired by the immersive, participatory, and potentially healing installation environments of *Infinity Mirrors* in this workshop with artist Naomi Kasumi. Participants will consider an unresolved personal event and, without sharing the details, think of an apology they would like to make through a group installation. Kasumi leads participants in creating apology pom-poms, like 3-D dots, and assembling them into an enlivening spatial experience.

Wed Jul 19

Kitchen Sessions with The CD Forum for Art and Ideas

7-9 pm

Seattle Art Museum

In partnership with The Central District Forum for Art and Ideas and poet and educator Imani Sims, this dynamic evening will explore themes related to *Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors*. The Forum's recurring Kitchen Sessions are an opportunity to highlight and celebrate black female-identified artists, to reflect on and discuss art with these artists, and to develop inter-generational dialogue.

Fri Aug 11

SAM Remix

8 pm-midnight

Olympic Sculpture Park

SAM Remix returns for a full evening of performances, tours, dancing, creating, and exploring the sculptures and installations at the Olympic Sculpture Park. Choose your own adventure during this creative late-night out inspired by *Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors* and new installations on view at the sculpture park. Remix is a 21+ event.

Remix is sponsored by Delta Air Lines and Starbucks Coffee Company. Media sponsors are The Stranger and KEXP 90.3 FM

REGISTERING AND PURCHASING TICKETS FOR SAM PROGRAMS

Advance registration or ticket purchase is required for SAM public programs. Please note that tickets for SAM programming and events does not include entrance to *Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors*. To register or purchase tickets, visit seattleartmuseum.org or call the Box Office at 206.654.3121. Event tickets may also be purchased at the Seattle Art Museum.

EXHIBITION ORGANIZATION AND SUPPORT

Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors is organized by the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution.



The presentation of the exhibition at SAM is made possible by

SAM FUND FOR SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

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Photo credits: *Dots Obsession—Love Transformed into Dots*, 2007, at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Yayoi Kusama, Japanese, b. 1929, mixed media installation, Courtesy of Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo/Singapore; Victoria Miro, London; David Zwirner, New York, © YAYOI KUSAMA, Photo: Cathy Carver. *The Obliteration Room*, 2002 to present, Yayoi Kusama, Japanese, b. 1929, furniture, white paint, and dot stickers, dimensions variable, Collaboration between Yayoi Kusama and Queensland Art Gallery, Commissioned Queensland Art Gallery, Australia, Gift of the artist through the Queensland Art Gallery Foundation 2012, Collection: Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia, © YAYOI KUSAMA, Photo: QAGOMA Photography.

ABOUT SEATTLE ART MUSEUM

As the leading visual art institution in the Pacific Northwest, SAM draws on its global collections, powerful exhibitions, and dynamic programs to provide unique educational resources benefiting the Seattle region, the Pacific Northwest, and beyond. SAM was founded in 1933 with a focus on Asian art. By the late 1980s the museum had outgrown its original home, and in 1991 a new 155,000-square-foot downtown building, designed by Robert Venturi, Scott Brown & Associates, opened to the public. The 1933 building was renovated and reopened as the Asian Art Museum in 1994. SAM's desire to further serve its community was realized in 2007 with the opening of two stunning new facilities: the nine-acre Olympic Sculpture Park (designed by Weiss/Manfredi Architects)—a "museum without walls," free and open to all—and the Allied Works Architecture designed 118,000-square-foot expansion of its main, downtown location, including 232,000 square feet of additional space built for future expansion. The Olympic Sculpture Park and SAM's downtown expansion celebrate their tenth anniversary in 2017.

From a strong foundation of Asian art to noteworthy collections of African and Oceanic art, Northwest Coast Native American art, European and American art, and modern and contemporary art, the strength of SAM's collection of approximately 25,000 objects lies in its diversity of media, cultures and time periods.