YAYOI KUSAMA: Life is the Heart of a Rainbow

Yayoi Kusama is one of the world’s most recognized living artists. Her paintings, sculptures, videos and *Infinity Mirrored Rooms* have transcended into global popular culture. This exhibition traces the artist’s development over seven decades, beginning in Japan in the early 1950s, moving to New York in the 1960s and returning to Japan in 1973 where Kusama lives and works today.

*Life is the Heart of a Rainbow* is a focused survey of Kusama’s vast output. It explores the development of her iconic motifs and themes, and their formal and conceptual interconnections through her career. The exhibition includes Kusama’s early painterly experiments from the 1950s that show the advent of her signature use of dots, nets, and pumpkins; a selection of the celebrated *Infinity Nets* paintings; images of public performances and *happenings*; large-scale installations and recent paintings which demonstrate Kusama’s fascinating approach to space.

#KUSAMA×MACAN  #KusamaJakarta
Great Gigantic Pumpkin (2013)
Fiberglass Reinforced Plastic, urethane paint, metal. 245 x ø 260 cm. Collection of Gandaria City

Dots Obsession – Infinity Mirrored Room (2008/2018)
Suspended vinyl balloons, large balloon dome with mirror room, and peep-in mirror dome. Dimensions variable. Installation view at Museum MACAN.

Narcissus Garden (1966/2018)
Stainless steel balls. 1,500 spheres; Ø 30 cm each. Installation view at Museum MACAN.

Mirrored box and light bulbs. 220 x 214.3 x 45 cm. Collection of Museum MACAN.

I WANT TO LOVE ON THE FESTIVAL NIGHT (2017)
Mirror, wooden panel, LED, metal, acrylic panel, water. 287.4 x 415 x 415 cm. Collection of Museum MACAN.

Infinity Mirrored Room - Brilliance of the Souls (2014)
Suspended vinyl balloons, large balloon dome with mirror room, and peep-in mirror dome. Dimensions variable. Installation view at Museum MACAN.
Early Works

Periode awal Kusama sebagai seniman pada 1940-an sangat dipengaruhi oleh tekanan yang ia alami di rumah, juga di negara asalnya Jepang, yang saat itu sedang berusaha pulih dari kekalahan yang tragis pada Perang Dunia II. Seni adalah pelarian Kusama, juga caranya untuk mengatasi gejala halusinasi yang terus-menerus ia alami sejak kecil.

The earliest works in this exhibition were made in Yayoi Kusama’s studio in Matsumoto, Japan, following her study of nihonga (Japanese-style painting) in the Kyoto Municipal School of Arts and Crafts during the late 1940s. Kusama grew up in a conservative Japanese family, where her ambition to be an artist was not encouraged, at a time when Japan was recovering from its defeat in World War II. The oppressive environment at home, and within Japanese society at large, made a strong impact on Kusama’s fragile psyche. From childhood Kusama has experienced regular hallucinations which take form as auras around objects or talking plants and animals. Recording her hallucinations through drawings, Kusama’s art making activities became a way to deal with her condition. Later, when she found the traditional nihonga style limiting, Kusama was drawn to the avant garde, in particular the influence of dada and surrealist movements which reached Japan in the 1920s and 1930s.

Infinity Nets


The Infinity Nets have been a consistent feature in Yayoi Kusama’s practice since the late 1950s. The pattern is inspired by the artist’s personal experiences including seeing the waves of the Pacific Ocean from the plane window on her journey from Japan to the United States in 1957. This section showcases Infinity Nets paintings created over nearly 70 years, demonstrating the ongoing development of the series over time, across mediums, color spectrum and scale.

Flower. 1953. Pastel and gouache on paper. 31.7 x 32.2 cm. Collection of Museum MACAN

No. A. 1959. Oil on canvas. 64 x 80 cm. Collection of Yas Takeda, Japan
The human body holds a central importance in Yayoi Kusama’s vast output of work. In the United States in the 1960s and 1970s, she was attuned to the changing political and social environment, which encouraged her to stage many experimental performances, called “happenings” at New York City landmarks like the Brooklyn Bridge, Central Park and Wall Street. This section displays selected documentation of these happenings – known variously as Body Festivals, Naked Happenings and Anatomic Explosions.


Upon her return to Japan in 1973, Kusama discovered that her homeland had changed dramatically. In this period, earlier motifs such as polka dots, flowers and pumpkins, reappeared, as her practice underwent several shifts: her paintings and installations expanded in scale to encompass the viewer; she resumed making large-scale soft sculptures; and experimented with different materials and techniques including collage and print making.
In the early 2000s, Kusama began incorporating childlike marks and imagery into her works. This can be seen in ‘Love Forever’, a large suite of works, developed from monochromatic felt pen drawings, created between 2004 – 2007. These works are displayed surrounding a ‘peep box’ titled I Want to Love on the Festival Night (2017).

This section centers around Kusama’s recent painting series. The monumental series began in 2009 and continues to this day. The series currently includes over 500 individual paintings. One of these paintings, Life is the Heart of a Rainbow (2017), is also the title of this exhibition.

The Obliteration Room

Yayoi Kusama is a Japanese artist. When she was a small girl she started seeing the world through a screen of tiny dots. They covered everything she saw—the walls, ceilings, and even her own body. For 40 years she has made paintings, sculptures and photographs using dots to cover surfaces and fill rooms. Kusama calls this process ‘obliteration’, which means the complete destruction of every trace of something. Yayoi Kusama invites you to join in and have fun covering all the furniture and walls in this living room with bright colourful dots!
**Program Khusus**
Special Programs

**Kuliah Terbuka**
Open Lecture

Key Speaker: 
Akira Tatehata  
Director, YAYOI KUSAMA MUSEUM

Rabu / Wednesday  
1 Agustus / August 2018  
19.00 – 21.00

Gratis, tempat terbatas  
Free, limited seats

IFI Jakarta  
INSTITUT FRANÇAIS D’INDONÉSIE  
Jl M.H.Thamrin No. 20  
Jakarta Pusat

**Pemutaran Film**
Film Screening

Jumat / Friday  
24 Agustus / August 2018  
19.00 – 21.00

Gratis, 100 tempat terbatas  
Free, 100 limited seats

Public Area Museum MACAN

---

**Program Rutin**
Regular Programs

**Soft Sculpture Workshop**

Patung lunak adalah salah satu kekhasan Yayoi Kusama. Mari eksplorasi pembuatan patung dengan bahan lunak!

Soft sculpture is one of Yayoi Kusama’s signatures. Let’s explore sculpture-making with soft materials!

Jumat / Friday  
6 Juli / July 2018  
15.00 — 17.00

Biaya bergabung / Joining fee:  
IDR 150,000  
Level 6 Museum MACAN

---

**Pumpkin Playdough**

Mari membuat sebuah makhluk dengan buah kesukaan Yayoi Kusama, labu! Untuk meningkatkan pengalaman inderawi kalian, playdough ini dibuat khusus oleh tim Edukasi kami. Untuk anak-anak berusia 2-5 tahun.

Let’s create a creature with Yayoi Kusama’s favorite fruit, pumpkin! To enhance your sensory experience, the playdough is specially made by our Education team. For children between 2-5 years old.

Sabtu / Saturday  
28 Juli / July 2018  
14.00 — 16.00

Biaya bergabung / Joining fee:  
IDR 150,000  
Level 6 Museum MACAN

---

**Cosplay Poetry**
Participatory Program

Sabtu / Saturday  
25 Agustus / August 2018  
19.00 – 21.00

Gratis / Free

Public Area Museum MACAN

---

**Seed Mosaic**


Seeds are mysterious things. From a small thing, it can grow into something that might inspire you. What kind of artwork can you make with seeds? For children between 5-9 years old.

Sabtu / Saturday  
30 Juni / June 2018  
14.00 — 15.00

Biaya bergabung / Joining fee:  
IDR 150,000  
Level 6 Museum MACAN

---

**Ikebana Workshop**

Bunga adalah salah satu benda yang menginspirasi Yayoi Kusama. Pada lokakarya ini, mari merangkai bunga menggunakan bunga khas Indonesia.

Flower is one of the items that inspires Yayoi Kusama. In this workshop, let’s create a flower arrangement using Indonesian flowers.

Sabtu / Saturday  
4 Agustus / August 2018  
14.00 — 16.00

Biaya bergabung / Joining fee:  
IDR 150,000  
Level 6 Museum MACAN

---

**Pumpkin Playdough**

Seluruh program memerlukan email konfirmasi terlebih dahulu melalui:  
All programs require RSVP, please send email to:  
education@museummacan.org
Dengan menggunakan kardus dan kayu, pengunjung diajak untuk menggunakan imajinasi mereka dan membuat sesuatu yang baru menggunakan material yang ada. Instalasi Kotak Utak-Atik mendorong aktivitas ‘mengutak-atik’ di mana benda yang rusak akan diperbaiki atau dirombak dan tidak dibuang untuk sesuatu yang baru.


Tentang Gatot Indrajati

Using cardboard and timber offcuts, the audience is invited to use their imagination and make something new using the objects in front of them. The Tinkering Box encourages ‘tinkering’ where a broken object is mended or remodeled instead of being thrown away for something new.

Since the manufacturing boom in Indonesia, which began in the late 1960s, a culture of consumption has increasingly been embedded in our society. Buying new products rather than fixing old things has become the norm. Through the act of ‘tinkering’ Gatot reminds us of the valuable and rewarding process of making and, on a larger scale, its contribution to environmental sustainability.

About Gatot Indrajati
Born in 1980 in Bogor, Gatot currently works and resides in Yogyakarta. His practice mainly revolves around the use of wood as the medium across painting, sculpture and installation.
Selalu simpan tiket Anda. Pengecekan bisa sewaktu-waktu dilakukan di area pameran. Hold your ticket at all times. Ticket checks may be performed at any points of the exhibition area.

Masuklah ke area pameran sesuai waktu yang tertera pada tiket. Enter the exhibition between the stated times on your ticket.

Dilarang membawa segala jenis kamera, termasuk DSLR, SLR dan Polaroid. No tripods, monopods, selfie sticks or any other photography tools are allowed.

Jangan menyentuh karya seni. Do not touch the artworks.

Berbicaralah dengan lembut. Speak softly. Set your phone on silent mode and refrain from making phone calls in the gallery.

Dilarang berlari dan memakai sepatu roda di dalam museum. Do not run or wear roller shoes in the museum.

Diperbolehkan menggambar sketsa dengan pensil di area pameran, dengan buku yang berukuran tidak lebih dari 22 x 28 cm. Pencil sketching is permitted in the galleries with sketchbooks no larger than 22 x 28 cm.

Charcoal, pastel, permanent markers, watercolour, oil paint, and sharp objects are not permitted in the museum area.

Staf museum dan pengunjung museum berhak atas lingkungan yang aman yang bebas dari kekerasan, penganiayaan, atau perilaku yang mengancam. Kami berhak mengeluarkan pengunjung dari area museum atas alasan-alasan tersebut. Museum staff and museum visitors have the right to a safe environment free from violence, abusive, or threatening behavior. The museum reserves the right to remove individuals from the Museum’s premises.
Jadwal Tur
Tour Schedule

YAYOI KUSAMA: Life is the Heart of a Rainbow

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tur Harian/Weekday Tour</th>
<th>Tur Kuratorial/ Curatorial Tour</th>
<th>Tur Anak/Children’s Tour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Selasa – Kamis / Tuesday – Thursday</td>
<td>Kamis, 12 Juli 2018 / Thursday, 12 July 2018</td>
<td>Minggu / Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00 / 14.00</td>
<td>14.00</td>
<td>14.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jumat / Friday</td>
<td>Sabtu, 28 Juli 2018 / Saturday, 28 July 2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00 / 15.00</td>
<td>11.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kamis, 9 Agustus 2018 / Thursday, 9 August 2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sabtu, 25 Agustus 2018 / Saturday, 25 August 2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pemesanan khusus tur rombongan, dilengkapi dengan tur kuratorial, silakan hubungi kami sekurang-kurangnya satu minggu (7 hari) sebelum tanggal kunjungan.
For group bookings with complimentary curatorial tour, please contact us at least one week (7 days) prior to the preferred visit date.
groupvisit@museummacan.org

www.museummacan.org

Bergabunglah menjadi anggota, dan dapatkan satu dari seribu kartu Yayoi Kusama MACAN Society edisi terbatas.
Join as member now and receive this limited, Yayoi Kusama MACAN Society card (limited to 1000)

www.museummacan.org/membership