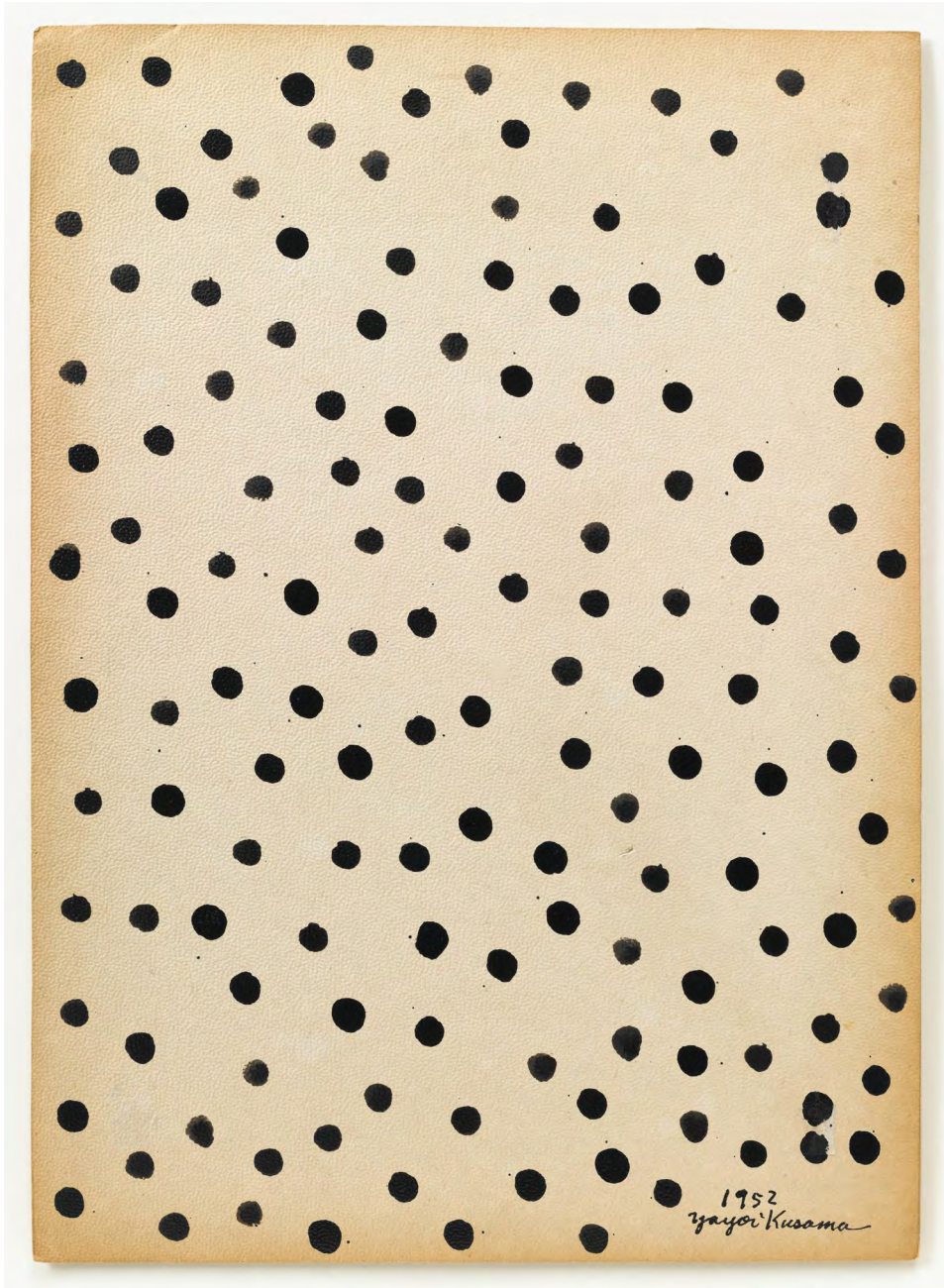


**Make Art with MoMA**  
**Yayoi Kusama.**  
***Accumulation.***  
**1952.**



**MoMA**

## Step 1

### Look closely

## Discussion Ideas

👁 **Observe** Look closely.

🗨 **Describe** Share what you notice about the shapes you see.

💡 **Interpret** Do the dots remind you of something? How would you make this painting? Would you paint each dot quickly or slowly? Would you plan out a pattern or just go with the flow and make one after the other? Pretend to make your own version of this painting in your imagination. What would you use to put the paint on the canvas? How would you feel making it?

🔗 **Connect** Where would you see dots like this in your everyday life?

## Step 2

### Learn more

Yayoi Kusama was born in 1929 in Japan. At the age of 10, she started to experience visual and aural hallucinations, which are part of a psychosocial disability she lives with. She channeled this experience into art making as a child and continued to create and study art as a young adult, despite her parents not wanting her to pursue being an artist.

Many of Kusama's artworks feature lots and lots of dots covering canvases, costumes, and even entire rooms. When she was young, she had a hallucination that she was in a field of flowers, who all started talking to her. She describes the heads of flowers like dots that went on as far as she could see, and she felt as if she was disappearing or as she calls it "self-obliterating"—into this field of endless dots. By adding dots to her paintings, drawings, sculptures, and clothes, she feels as though she is becoming part of the bigger universe.

In 1957, Kusama left Japan on her own and moved to New York City. She made paintings, sculptures, and installations and was well-respected for her work. It was here that she created her Infinity Nets series, "without composition—without beginning, end, or center," created through repetitive motion of inscribing tiny arcs on a solid black background. These works were meditative for Kusama, who struggled with living by herself in New York.

Kusama returned to Japan in the 1970s. Still today, she walks to her studio to create art every day.

See more of Yayoi Kusama's work here: [\*\*Yayoi Kusama | MoMA.\*\*](#)

### **Step 3**

#### **Activity Idea: Create an accumulation of dots**

Materials: Cardstock and circle stickers.

1. Choose a piece of cardstock and a variety of stickers.
2. Add circle stickers to create a unique design.
3. Here are some choices you might want to make about your artwork:
  - a. Do you want to use all the same-size circle stickers?
  - b. What colors of circle stickers would you like to use?
  - c. Will you keep a certain amount of space between each circle sticker?
  - d. Will you overlap or layer any of the circle stickers?
  - e. Will you create a pattern with your circle stickers?

#### **Tips from Teachers:**

1. Try doing this with stickers and paint. Students can lay circle stickers down and then cover the sheet with paint or Kwik Stix. Pull the stickers up to reveal the pattern.
2. Try emptying a hole puncher and using all of the small dots. Lay down a sticky-surface- contact paper or a piece of paper that has been pre-brushed with glue and then either place or scatter the dots to create an artwork.
3. Try using dot markers as an adaptive material for this painting project.