

Nasco artworks

JAPANESE NOTAN PAPER ART AND DESIGN

DEVELOPED BY

Developed by Jenn Johnson
Art Educator, Jersey City, NJ
Grades 9-12

OBJECTIVES

Students will...

- Understand the historical and cultural traditions of Japanese art and design.
- Study the life and art of Yayoi Kusama.
- Create an updated notan design inspired by Kusama's work and that is a strong example of contrast (dark and light).
- Exhibit, collectively, the works in a public space to create an installation that has as much impact as Kusama's installation.

STANDARDS

VA:Cr1.2.1a — Shape an artistic investigation of an aspect of present-day life using a contemporary practice of art or design.

VA:Cr2.1.1a — Engage in making a work of art or design without having a preconceived plan.

VA:Cr2.3.1a — Collaboratively develop a proposal for an installation, artwork, or space design that transforms the perception and experience of a particular place.

OVERVIEW

During this unit of study, students will study the life and work of Yayoi Kusama and the art and design aesthetic of the Japanese notan. The finished work will be displayed collectively and publicly for strong impact.

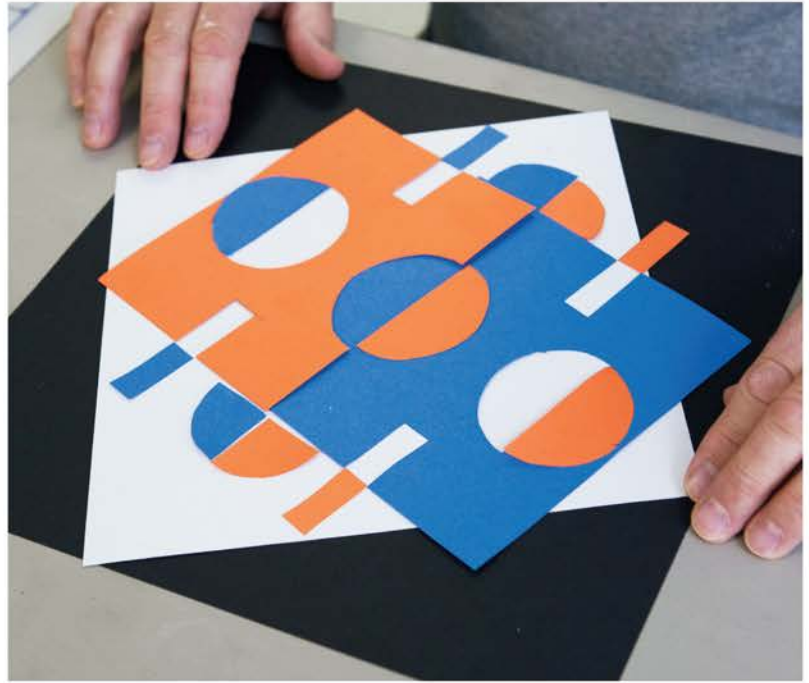


DAY 1

Students will view some short documentary and interview pieces on the life and work of Yayoi Kusama.

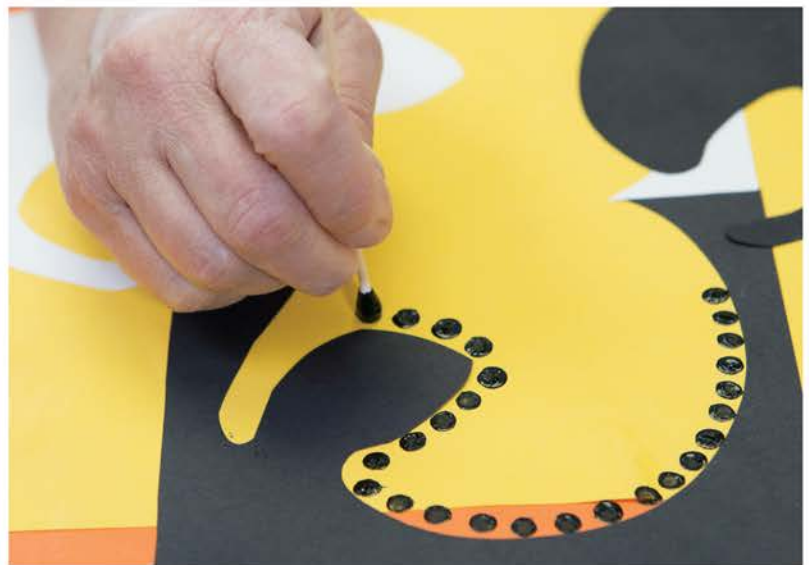
After the short videos have concluded, the class can discuss the concepts behind Kusama's work.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gCdcXWJjegE>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JLhPGB9yPPw>



DAY 2

1. Introduce students to the concept and examples of the Japanese design concept of the notan. The notan is the balance of light and dark, yin and yang, positive and negative space. Have students research notan examples online.
2. Hand out various paper squares to each student to use in creating a notan. The large, 12" x 12" square is used for mounting, while the 9" x 9" square and the two 6" x 6" squares are used for the notan creation.
3. Before students begin to create their own designs, demonstrate the process of using the scissors and craft knife when cutting out shapes from the square. Instruct students not to discard any pieces of cut paper.
4. Have students begin to cut shapes from their 6" x 6" squares using scissors and a craft knife. Remind students that the Japanese tradition notan is neat, precise, and orderly. Designs can have either symmetrical or asymmetrical compositions. Do not glue any pieces of paper down before the entire cutting is done.



DAYS 3-5

1. Once students have the paper cut and laid out, students can begin to glue down their shapes using nori paste.
2. Once the gluing is complete, review the Yayoi Kusama videos and her obsession with marks and polka dots. Distribute white, black, and other bright colors of acrylic paint; craft swabs; and a paper towel. Demonstrate to students the process of creating dots and marks like Kusama. Have them continue until their finished work is full of dots.



DAY 6

Once complete, paint a clear coat of gloss medium on the entire composition and allow to dry.



CLOSURE

When the entire class has completed their compositions, they should be exhibited as a whole installation, like the Infinity Rooms of Kusama.



TRU-RAY®

MATERIALS LIST

- Pacon® SunWorks® Construction Paper, 24" x 36", Black (Cat. No. 9719383[AE])
- Pacon® Tru-Ray® Fade-Resistant Construction Paper, 12" x 18", 50 sheets in 10 assorted colors (Cat. No. 9708564[AR])
- Nasco No. 1 Knife with No. 11 Blade (Cat. No. 4100418)
- Westcott® 8" Preferred Scissors with Bent Handle (Cat. No. 9717270)
- Yasutomo® Nori Paste, 10 oz. (Cat. No. 9722519)
- Liquitex® Basics Acrylic Colors, set of 6, 4 oz. (Cat. No. 9710083)
- Art & Craft Cotton Swabs, pkg. of 100 (Cat. No. SB08678)
- Liquitex® Basics Varnish, 8.79 oz., Gloss (Cat. No. 9739135)



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