



**Yayoi
Kusama
/
Yinka
Shonibare**



Questions

Ideally go through this process with each artist separately

There are many possible questions you could ask, to support students in looking at artworks. Here, we are asking them to first describe what they see, and then to compare the work they are looking at to other artworks.

Here, they can compare the focus artwork to siapo, hiapo and/or to the other of either Kusama or Shonibare.

Questions use Yayoi Kusama as an example

- Look at Yayoi's artworks and describe them
- How are these different to the art we've been looking at before? Siapo/hiapo/Shonibare
- How are they similar?
- Where might Yayoi be from, based on what you can see? What clues did you find in the artworks that suggested this to you?
- What do you wonder about this artwork/this artist?
- Do some research to find out more information (small group work)
- Share learnings with other groups/the whole class
- Based on what you have learnt, what stories do these artworks and their patterns tell about Yayoi's life?
- How does Yayoi's use of pattern help to share some of these stories?



Yayoi Kusama

Yayoi Kusama

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Clockwise left - right, from top left

Kusama in *Dots Obsession*, Watari Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, 2011

The Obliteration Room, 2002 - present, white space and furniture, stickers

The Germ, 1952, ink and pastel on paper

Infinity Mirrored Room - My Heart is Dancing into the Universe, 2018, mirrors and paper lanterns

Pumpkin, 2012, fibreglass-reinforced plastic

Kusama working, January 2010

An Encounter with a Flowering Season, 2009, acrylic on canvas



Yinka Shonibare

Yinka Shonibare

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Clockwise left - right, from top left

The British Library, 2014, hardback books, Dutch wax printed cotton textile, gold foiled names, five wooden chairs, five iPads, iPad stands, headphones, interactive Application and antique wind-up clock

Invisible Man, 2018, fiberglass mannequin, Dutch wax printed cotton textile, net, possessions, leather shoes and steel baseplate

Cheeky Little Astronomer II, 2015, Fibreglass mannequin, Dutch wax printed cotton textile, telescope, chair and globe.

Gay Victorians, 1999, life-size fibreglass mannequins, Dutch wax printed cotton, mixed media

Black Gold II, 2009, acrylic paint on wall, acrylic on 25 Dutch wax painted cotton canvases.

Bad Gold, 2014, decommissioned M16 Rifle, Dutch wax printed cotton textile and gold acrylic paint

Research sites

Yayoi Kusama

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/who-is/who-yayoi-kusama>

<https://whitney.org/exhibitions/yayoi-kusama>

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2018/sep/23/yayoi-kusama-infinity-film-victoria-miro-exhibition>

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/yayoi-kusama-8094/yayoi-kusamas-obliteration-room>

<https://crystalbridges.org/exhibitions/yayoi-kusamas-infinity-mirrored-room-my-heart-is-dancing-into-the-universe/>

Yinka Shonibare

<http://yinkashonibare.com/>

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/who-is/who-yinka-shonibare>

<https://www.mca.com.au/artists-works/exhibitions/yinka-shonibare-mbe/>