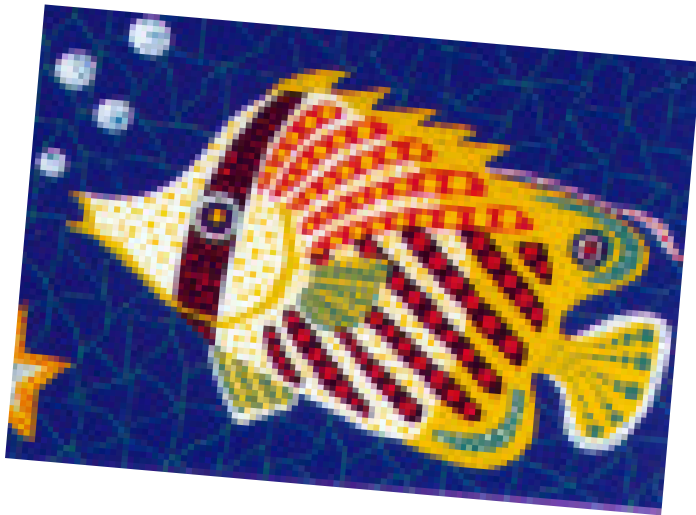


# Yayoi Kusama



Born in Japan in 1929, from the age of 10 Kusama could see dots everywhere. In her 20's she began painting abstract natural forms. Sometimes she was called 'the princess of polka dots,' Kusama also created prints, drawings, sculptures, performances and installation art.

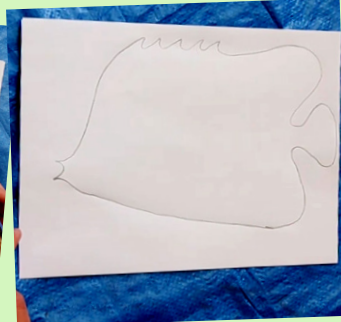
*For this activity you will need:*  
Plain paper, pencil and water colour paints.

①

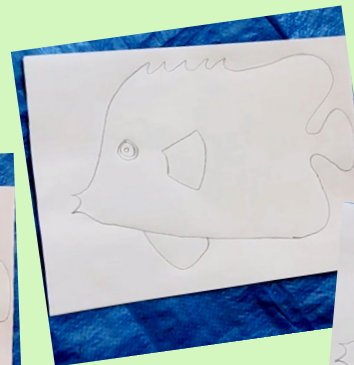
Today we're going to make our own dotty butterfly fish!  
*Template on page 3 if needed!*



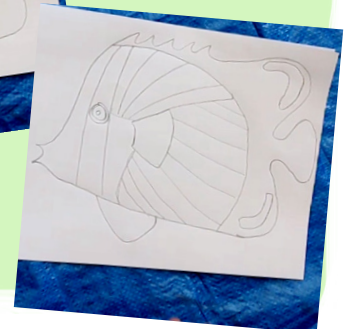
→ With your pencil, draw the outline of your butterfly fish. Try to fill as much of your page as possible.



→ Now to add the fishes fins and eye!



→ Finally, draw lines to divide the fishes body up for different patterns...



②

Look at how Kusama uses two colours together and prepare your water colour paints. If it helps, practice on another piece of paper as you're going along...



→ Start painting the background colour of each part of the fish. As you're using water colour paints, it is better to use a lighter colour for this part.



→ With lots of colour on your brush, gently dab onto your background colours to add dots to your butterfly fish. Paint big circles too if you like!



→ Last of all, paint any thing else on your fish, like eyes and fins if you haven't already done so...



③

What good is a fish if not in water!?

→ Start by painting some air bubbles floating upwards. Remember the dots inside the air bubbles!

→ Why not also try Kusama's triangular pattern to paint the sea with blue paint.

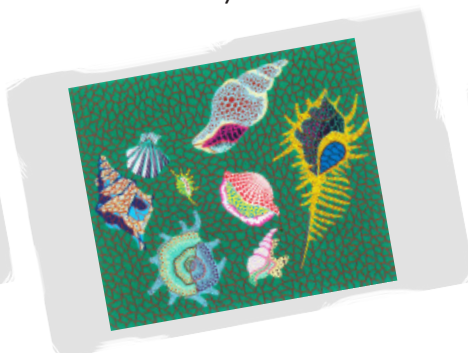
→ Last of all, leave your painting to dry somewhere safe. Don't forget to wash your brush when tidying up your things.



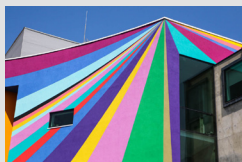
## Final Outcome:



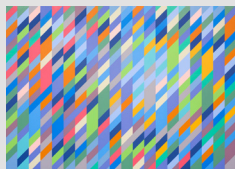
Using the same techniques, here's what else you could make:



If you like Yayoi Kusama, you might also like:



Lothar Götz



Bridget Riley



We have loved seeing all the amazing art you have been making, so keep sharing!

Send us a picture of what you make to:  
[creative.charlesdickens@gmail.com](mailto:creative.charlesdickens@gmail.com)

Keep up the great work!

