



Yayoi Kusama was born in 1929 in Japan. She loved drawing and painting as a child. She especially loved polka dots. She knew from an early age that she wanted to be an artist, but it took her awhile to convince her parents to let her go to art school.

After art school in Japan, she left home and went to New York City. It was a big change from Japan- a different language and a different culture. But New York City had so many important artists and she wanted to meet them all.

One of the artists she became friends with was Andy Warhol. He was known as a Pop Artist. Pop artist painted things that were “popular” or well known. Warhol painted soup cans. Kasuma painted pictures of pumpkins. And of course, her pumpkins had lots and lots of polka dots. She is called “The Princess of Polka Dots”.

She also made sculptures of pumpkins covered with polka dots. Some of her pumpkin sculptures are so big that they are exhibited outside. She designed big rooms with lots of mirrors and filled them with polka dotted pumpkins. The mirrors made it look like the pumpkins went on forever. She called these “infinity rooms”.

Her art work is very popular. She also designs clothing, shoes and purses as well as everyday objects around the home like pillows and towels. Her designs always have polka dots.