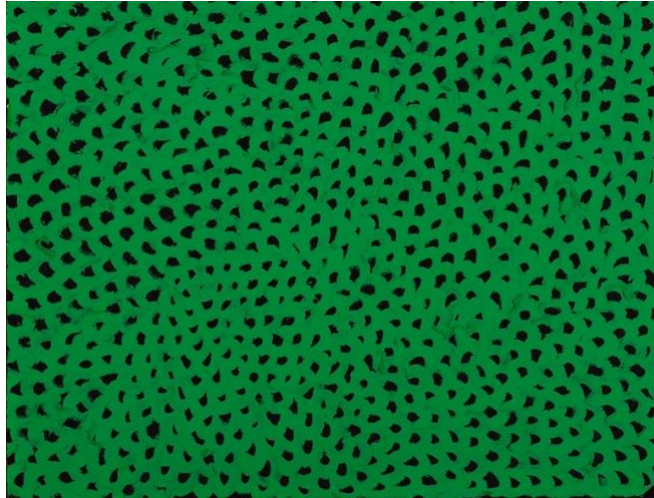


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The Ackland Art Museum Presents Two New Exhibitions: “Yayoi Kusama: Open the Shape Called Love,” and “Toriawase: A Special Installation of Modern Japanese Art and Ceramics”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Chapel Hill, N.C. — Jan 6, 2020) — The Ackland Art Museum at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill presents two new exhibitions of 20th and 21st century Japanese art. The exhibitions “Yayoi Kusama: Open the Shape Called Love,” and “Toriawase: A Special Installation of Modern Japanese Art and Ceramics” are on view from Friday, Jan. 31 through Sunday, April 12, 2020. [Click here for images and credits.](#)

“Yayoi Kusama: Open the Shape Called Love”

Visitors to “Open the Shape Called Love” will experience a smaller-scale, more contemplative, handmade side of Yayoi Kusama, a revered contemporary artist known primarily for her large-scale blockbuster installations. Included in the Ackland’s exhibition are early works on paper, intimate “dot” and “net” paintings, provocative sculpture and multimedia work, and a tabletop mirror box, all of which provide insight into Kusama’s later artistic output. While Kusama’s famous “Infinity Rooms”—mirrored environments illuminated with colored lights—have had art lovers the world over clamoring for a few seconds of coveted viewing time, this exhibition

offers a more relaxing experience than other recent shows of Kusama's work. There will be no need to compete for timed tickets, admission is free, and visitors are invited to stay and look at the exhibition for as long as the Museum is open. "Yayoi Kusama: Open the Shape Called Love" features more than 22 works from the distinguished collection of James Keith Brown '84 and Eric Diefenbach.

This exhibition has been organized by Peter Nisbet, Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs. The Ackland will be publishing a 64-page hardbound exhibition catalog by the organizer, including a biographical sketch, an essay, and scholarly entries on all exhibited works.

Yayoi Kusama: Open the Shape Called Love is supported in part by Bank of America.

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"Toriawase: A Special Installation of Modern Japanese Art and Ceramics"

"Toriawase" is a Japanese concept that loosely means to choose and combine objects with exquisite care. "Toriawase: A Special Installation of Modern Japanese Art and Ceramics" draws on the Ackland's holdings, as well as three major private collections: James Keith Brown '84 and Eric Diefenbach, Mina Levin and Ronald Schwarz, and Carol and Jeffrey Horvitz.

"Modern and contemporary Japanese painting and sculpture are not often displayed or considered alongside ceramics of the same period," said organizer Peter Nisbet, Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs. "We approach the combination of modern art and ceramics in this spirit, aiming less for a historical or scholarly approach and more for an intuitive,

experiential orchestration of relationships and correspondences.” The exhibition includes the work of 28 artists.

This special installation has been organized by Peter Nisbet and Nathan Marzen, Head of Exhibition Design and Installation, with the assistance of Dr. Daniele Lauro, a recent graduate from the PhD program in the History Department, UNC- Chapel Hill and 2019 Richard Bland Fellow at the Ackland Art Museum.

EXHIBITION-RELATED EVENTS:

OPENING EVENTS

Thursday, January 30, 2020

4:30-5:30 p.m. | Members’ Preview Tour
Led by Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs, Peter Nisbet
RSVP online

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. | Friends’ First Look
RSVP online; Questions to hailey.hargraves@unc.edu

EXHIBITION TOURS

**Guided Tours of *Toriawase* and *Open the Shape Called Love*
Select Weekdays | 1:30 p.m.**

February 5, Feb 14, Feb 20, Feb 26

March 5, Mar 13, Mar 18, Mar 26

April 3, 8, 9, 10

PERFORMANCES AND MORE

**2nd Friday ArtWalk
Friday, February 14, 2020 | 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

See *Yayoi Kusama: Open the Shape Called Love* during our 2nd Friday evening hours! Throughout the night, experience Kusama-inspired modern dance performances choreographed by Killian Manning and screenings of Kusama’s 1967 experimental film *Self Obliteration* (23 mins). Details at ackland.org.

Free; no RSVP required.

Book Discussion with Carolina Public Humanities
Friday, March 13, 2020 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.

“The Convenient Spot: Patterns and Repetition in Japanese Art and Literature at the Ackland”

Register for a book discussion program with [Carolina Public Humanities](#) that pairs *Yayoi Kusama: Open the Shape called Love* with Sayaka Murata’s award-winning short novel *Convenience Store Woman*. The discussion of the book and a look at the art will be facilitated by UNC lecturer Yuko Kato and Ackland Director of Education and Interpretation Carolyn Allmendinger.

\$30 per person (includes a copy of the book and light refreshments), Register [HERE!](#)

Dance in the Galleries
Sunday, March 15, 2020 | 2 p.m.

An afternoon of pop-up dance performances inside of and inspired by *Yayoi Kusama: Open the Shape Called Love*, choreographed by Killian Manning.

Connect the Dots on Arts Everywhere Day
Friday, April 3, 2020

Experience Yayoi Kusama’s provocative and performative side as polka dotted pop-up activities infiltrate UNC’s campus during Arts Everywhere Day, a campus celebration of global arts.

ACKLAND FILM FORUM

The Patterned Screen: Rhythm and Repetition in Contemporary Asian Cinema
Co-sponsored by the UNC-Chapel Hill Department of English and Comparative Literature

Screenings held at Varsity Theatre | 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted*
Tickets \$7 per person; free with UNC One Card

Paprika (Dir. Kon Satoshi, 2006, Japan)
Monday, February 3, 2020

Ackland Film Forum Talk: “Intermedial Feeling: How Kon Satoshi Animates the Self”
Thomas Lamarre (Middle Eastern and Asian Studies, Duke University)
Tuesday, February 4, 2020 | *Ackland Art Museum | 5:30 p.m.

Mother (Dir. Bong Joon-ho, 2009, South Korea)

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

The Grandmaster (Dir. Wong Kar-wai, 2013, Hong Kong)

Monday, March 16, 2020

Syndromes and a Century (Dir. Apichatpong Weerasethakul, 2007, Thailand)

Tuesday, March 24, 2020

KIDS AND FAMILIES

Family and Friends Sunday

Sunday, February 23, 2020 | 2-5 PM

Inspired by *Yayoi Kusama: Open the Shape Called Love* and *Toriawase*, choreographer Killian Manning has planned an interactive afternoon of site-specific, art-inspired dance in the galleries. Visitors of all ages will be invited to join dancers in movement and dance in response to the art on view.

Art Adventures

Select Saturdays | 10:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m.

Hands-on art-making classes for 6-9 year-olds; register at ackland.org

Saturday, February 8, 2020

Kusama-Inspired Tote Bags

Saturday, March 14, 2020

Toriawase-Inspired Mobiles

Admission to the Ackland is always free.

MEDIA CONTACT: Ariel Fielding, Director of Communications, ariel.fielding@unc.edu, 919-843-3675

About the Ackland Art Museum: Featuring a year-round calendar of special exhibitions and dynamic public programs, the Ackland Art Museum on UNC-Chapel Hill's historic campus is a local museum with a global outlook that bridges campus and community. Admission to the Ackland is free and accessible to all. The Ackland's holdings include more than 19,000 works of art. The collection spans cultures and time periods, showcasing the breadth of human creativity. A vital teaching resource, the museum's mission is the art of understanding. Visitors can connect with the complexity and beauty of the wider world by getting close to art — the familiar, the unexpected, the challenging. The Ackland Art Museum is located at 101 South

Columbia St. on the UNC Chapel Hill campus. Museum hours are Wednesday through Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sundays 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. The museum is open until 9 p.m. for Chapel Hill-Carrboro's monthly 2nd Friday ArtWalk. More information is available at ackland.org.

Image credits:

Yayoi Kusama, Japanese, born 1929, *Untitled*, 1967, oil on masonite, 40.6 x 45.7 cm. Collection of James Keith Brown '84 and Eric Diefenbach. Copyright: YAYOI KUSAMA.

Akiyama Yō, Japanese, born 1953, *Untitled, MV-155*, 2015, unglazed stoneware with silver coating, 9 5/8 x 22 3/8 x 15 inches. Carol and Jeffrey Horvitz Collection. Photo by Richard Goodbody, courtesy of Joan B. Mirviss.