

MEDIA RELEASE
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THE NGA ACQUIRES MAJOR KUSAMA INFINITY ROOM THANKS TO GENEROUS DONATION

The National Gallery of Australia is pleased to announce the acquisition of Yayoi Kusama's infinity room, *The Spirits of the Pumpkins Descended into the Heavens* 2015. The acquisition is possible through the generosity of Andrew and Hiroko Gwinnett for the Japanese Art Fund.

'The NGA's commitment to establishing an exemplary collection of contemporary art continues to be a priority,' said Gerard Vaughan, NGA Director. 'Andrew and Hiroko Gwinnett's visionary and generous gift allows this artwork to become a major destination at Australia's National Gallery.'

With a career spanning six decades, 88-year-old Yayoi Kusama has established an instantly recognisable signature aesthetic with her abundant use of polka dots. Kusama is among the world's most influential contemporary artists and has played a crucial role in the development of art in the late 20th and 21st centuries.

The Spirits of the Pumpkins Descended into the Heavens is an immersive installation where the visitor peers into a world of endless reflection—both physically and conceptually—as distorted yellow pumpkins with black dots are endlessly reflected in the mirrors. The motif of the dots signify Kusama's belief that polka dots are a way to infinity as 'our earth is only one polka dot among a million stars in the cosmos', whilst the endearing yet grotesque form and swift growth of the pumpkin transports her back to her childhood on her family's nursery.

'It has long-been my ambition to see a major contemporary Japanese artwork housed in Australia's national collection,' said Andrew Gwinnett. 'Kusama's playful installation is a legacy that will keep giving for generations to come.'

The Spirits of the Pumpkin Descended into the Heavens will be on display from December 2018.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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