

The Infinity of Yayoi Kusama - [ART LESSON LINK](#)



BIG IDEA: Learn about and create an artwork in a style of Avante Garde artist Yayoi Kusama's "My External Soul" paintings.

ACTIVITY #1 & 2

Watch the video and provided biography on Yayoi Kusama and answer 3 out of 6 questions below of your choice: [Yayoi Kusama - Video: Why is she obsessed with dots?](#)

- When and where was Yayoi Kusama born and why do you think she left there to move to New York?
- What were children supposed to do when she was a child?
- What do all of Yayoi Kusama's artwork have in common?
- Why did she create her artwork and what do repeating patterns make her feel?
- What was a defining moment in Yayoi Kusama's life that shaped her into an artist?
- Why do you believe Yayoi Kusama and her work are so important in our society today?

ACTIVITY # 3

Recreate your own Avante Garde artwork in the style of Yayoi Kusama. Look at Kusama's artwork on the following pages for references to get inspiration.

Your art can be:

- A drawing, sculpture, or painting
- Zentangle/doodle.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must contain a background pattern.
- Must contain an object of your choice in the foreground that also displays different patterns for each section.

Yayoi Kusama: Avant-Garde Artist (Born 1929)

"A polka dot has the form of the sun, which is a symbol of the energy of the whole world and our living life, and also the form of the moon, which is calm. Round, soft, colorful, senseless and unknowing. Polka dots can't stay alone; like the communicative life of people, two or three polka dot's become movement. Polka-dots are a way to infinity"



Sometimes called the "princess of polka dots". All of her artwork have one thing in common: she loves to paint polka dots and other patterns. Artist and writer Yayoi Kusama was born in Japan to a well-to-do family who grew seedlings for sale in their nursery. Her family didn't want her to be an artist. Her mother even threw away her paint brushes and tore up her artwork! Still, she would not stop creating, using whatever she could find around the house for art supplies. She even painted with mud! World War II made it difficult for her to create too. Children her age were expected to work long hours in factories making things for the war effort.

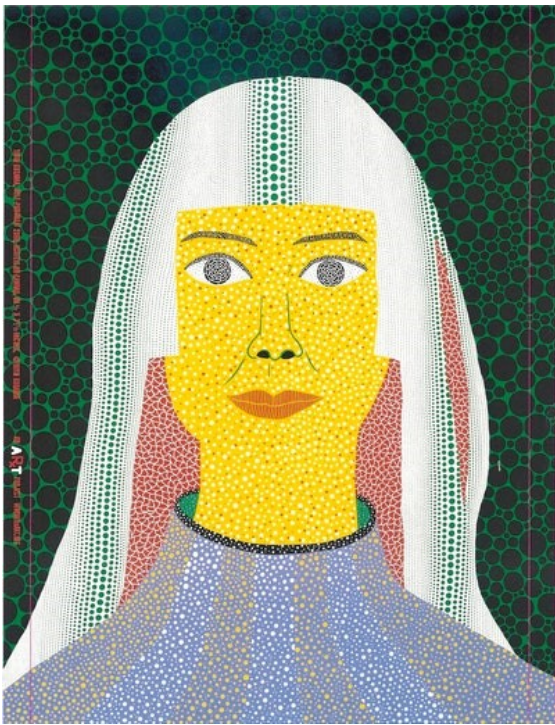
Somehow, she found time to create and had her first public exhibition when she was just a teenager. Finally she convinced her parents to let her go to Kyoto to study art.

In 1958, she moved to New York City where there was a thriving art community. Soon she was making all kinds of art; paintings, sculpture and even performance art where the viewer participates. Yayoi started making paintings with repeated curved brush strokes of thick paint over a black or gray canvas. She calls these paintings "Infinity Net Series" and she still likes to make them. She says making them is a form of art therapy, because repeating the brushstrokes over and over makes her feel calm. She wrote to Georgia O'Keeffe for advice and became friends with many artists in America, including Andy Warhol.

In 1973 she moved back to Japan where she also began having psychiatric problems and admitted herself to a hospital. She works from the hospital still today, writing and creating artwork with her signature motif, the dot. She said that as a child her imagination saw polka dots everywhere, and she began using them in her artwork at age 10. She remembers being a child and looking at a tablecloth covered in flowers. Suddenly, the flowers looked like dots, and when she looked around the room she saw dots everywhere! It began to feel like the world was dots and even she had disappeared into them. Now her art is filled with dots and she is one of the world's most successful living artists.

In 2014, one of her Infinity Net paintings, "White #28" painted in 1960 sold for \$7,109,000.00 (seven million, one hundred nine thousand dollars) which is the highest price ever paid for a living female artist's artwork.

Yayoi Kusama is one of the most important artists alive today. She is 91 years old.



Self Portrait, 2008



Snail, 1989



Toadstools, 1990



Bird, 1989

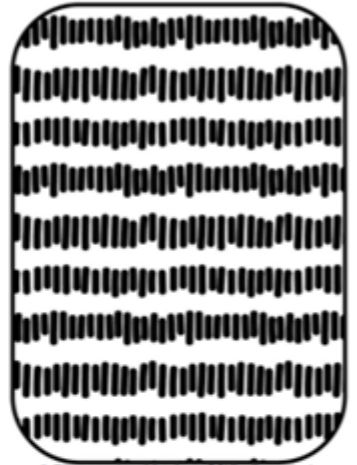
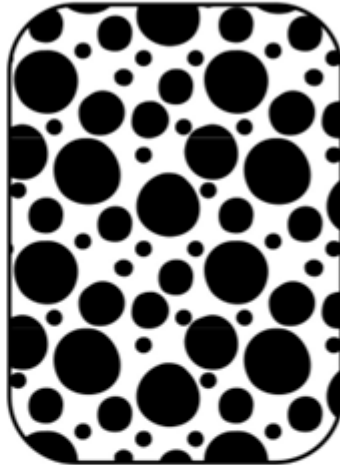
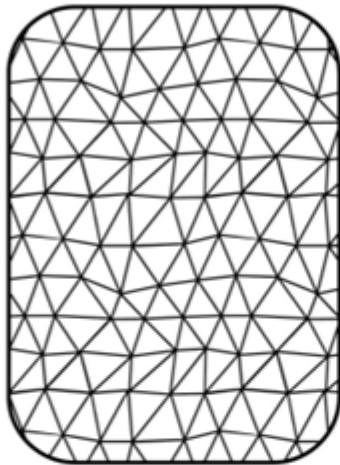
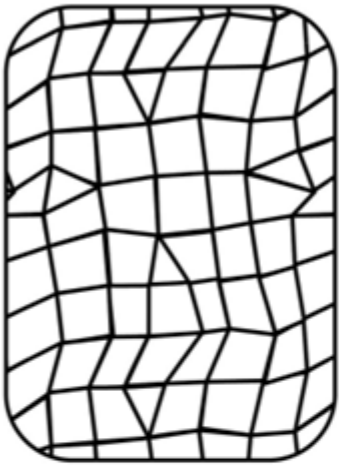


Hitomo, 1989

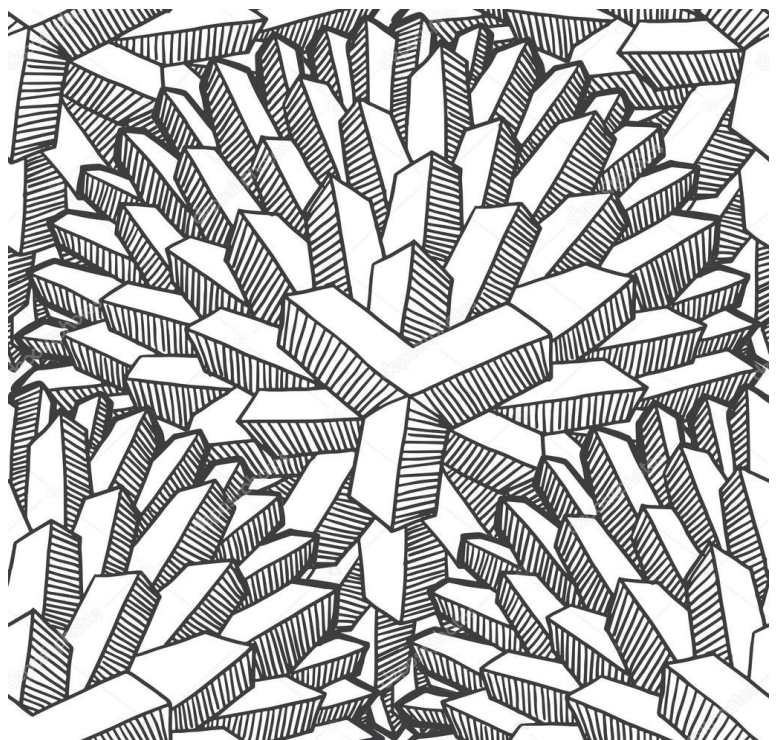
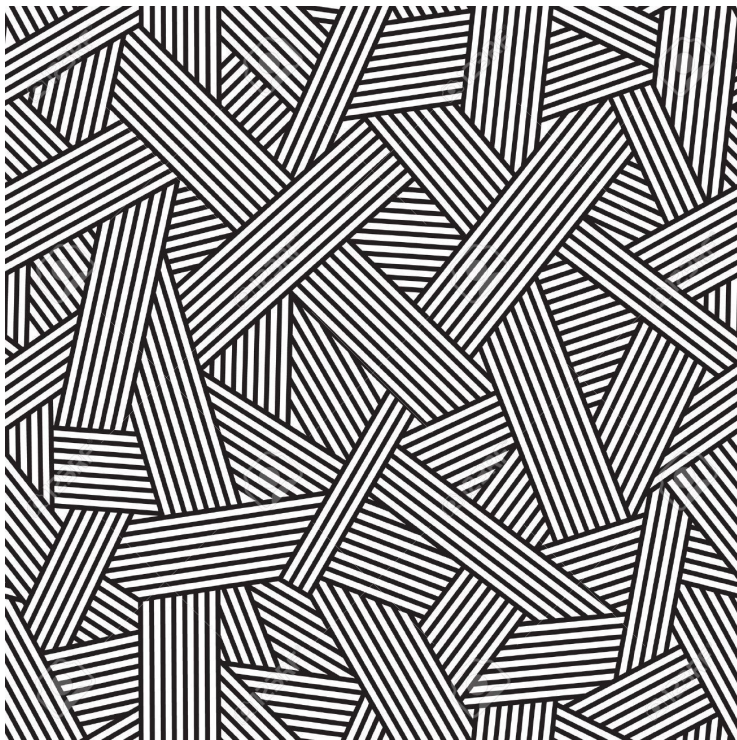
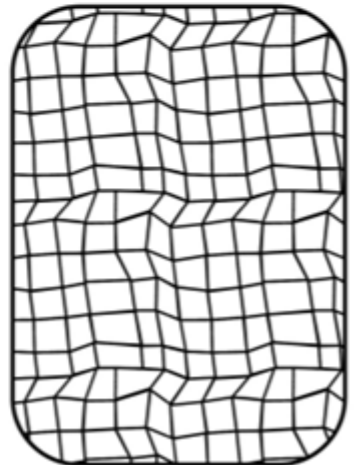
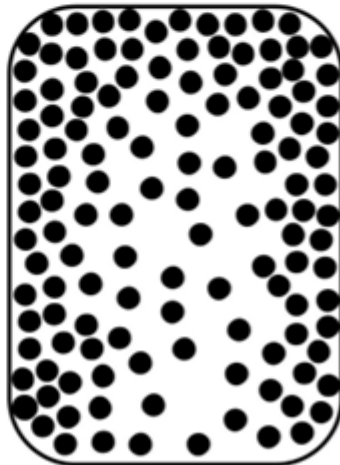
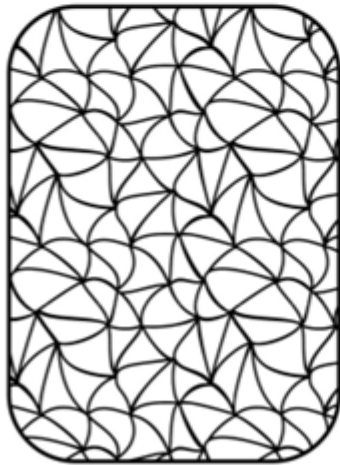
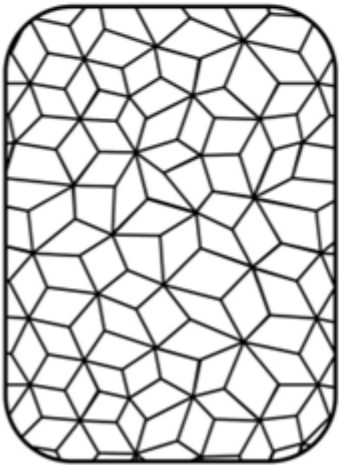


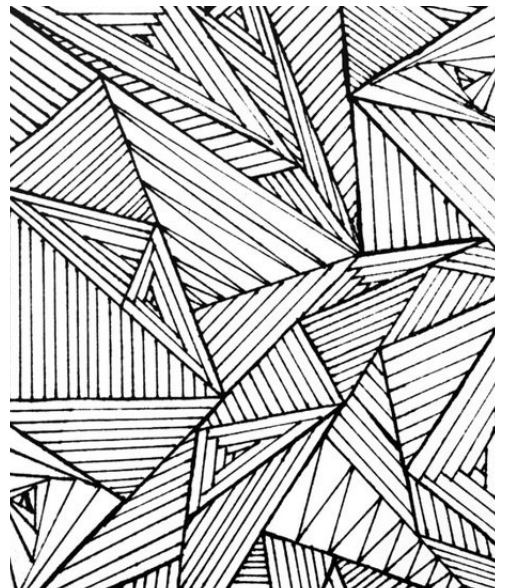
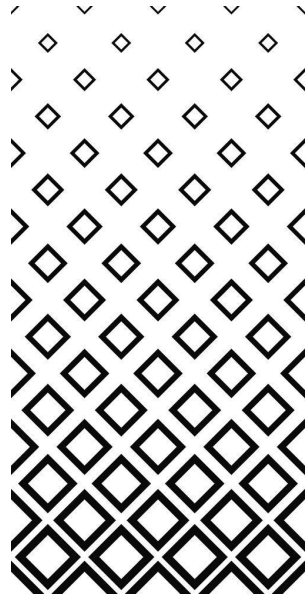
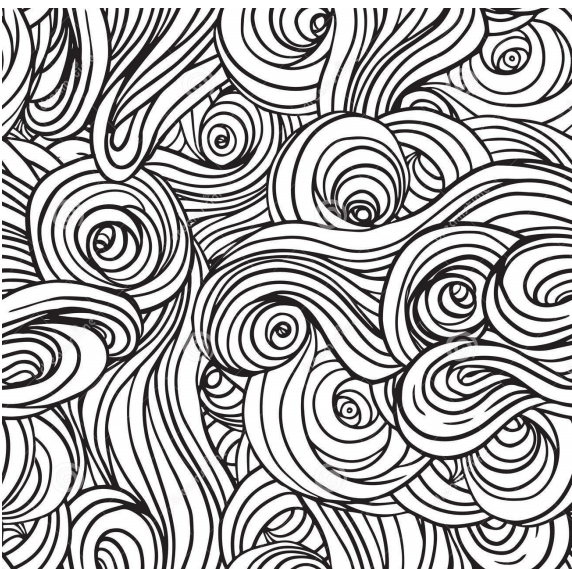
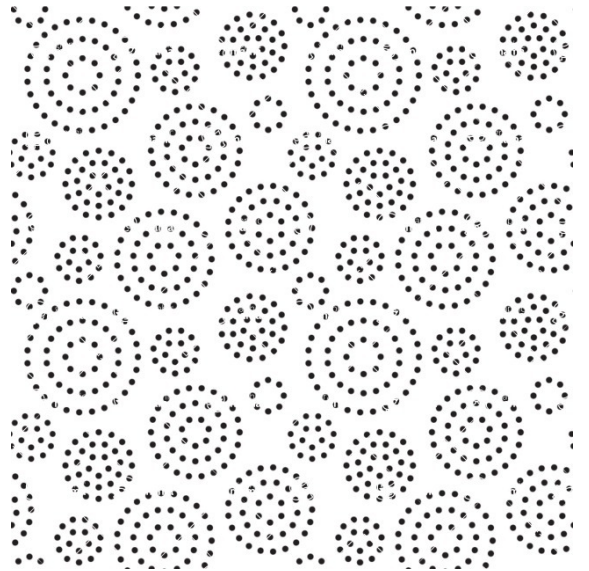
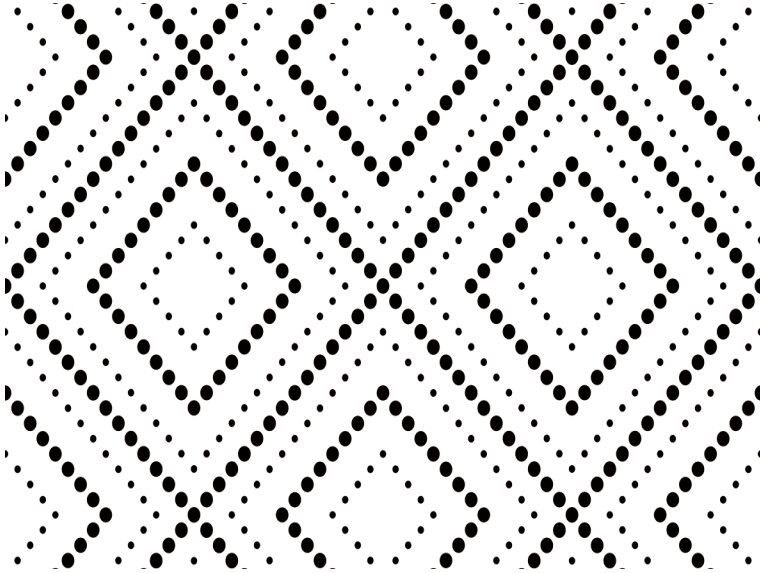
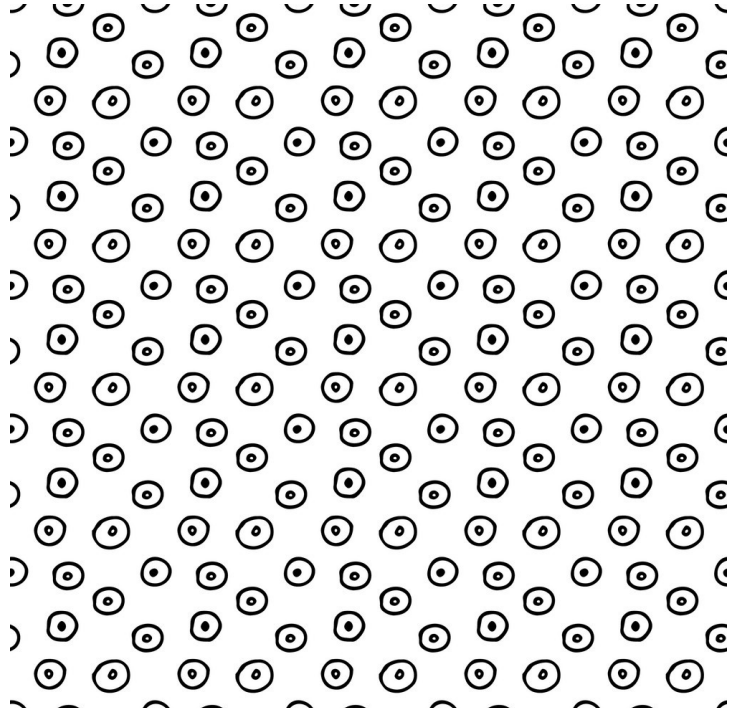
Flower Garden, 1989

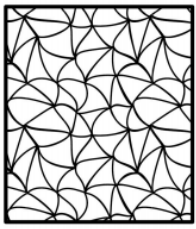
Background Pattern Ideas



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How to Draw a Curvy Infinity Net

Step-by-Step



1 Use 3 curved lines to make a curvy triangle.



2 Attach an upside-down curvy triangle.



3 Add 4 more triangles to make a curvy hexagon or flower shape.



4 Add 4 more triangles outside the original flower to form a second flower.

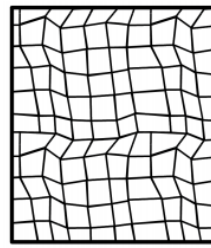


5 Add 3 more triangles to form a 3rd hexagon. Each flower has 6 curvy triangles.



6 Keep adding triangles to form more flowers until your space is filled up.

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How to Draw a Square Infinity Net

Step-by-Step



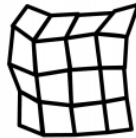
1 Start by drawing a square. Make it slightly imperfect.



2 Attach more imperfect squares.



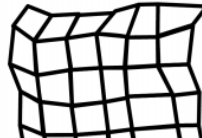
3 Line the corners up, but don't worry about keeping the lines too straight.



4 Making some of the lines slanted makes the design (or net) more interesting.

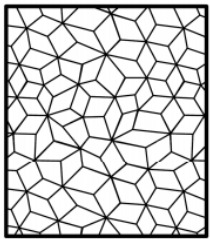


5 Keep adding squares until you fill up your space.



6 Having the lines slanted in some areas gives your design a 3-D appearance.

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How to Draw a Star Infinity Net

Step-by-Step



1 Start by making 3 lines that cross each other in the middle to make a star.



2 Add an angled line between the ends of each of the first three lines to make the points of the star.



3 Each point of the star will be the middle of the next star. Add the lines to make the next star.



4 Close up the points of the next star.

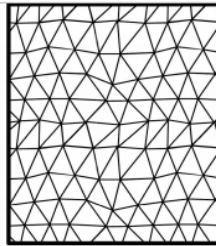


5 Pick another star point and start making it the middle of the next star.



6 Close up the points of that star and keep repeating the process of making new stars from the points of each star.

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How to Draw a Triangle Infinity Net

Step-by-Step



1 Start by making a triangle.



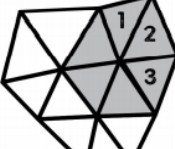
2 Attach an upside-down triangle.



3 Add 4 more triangles to make a hexagon.



4 Add 4 more triangles outside the original hexagon to form a second hexagon.



5 Add 3 more triangles to form a 3rd hexagon.

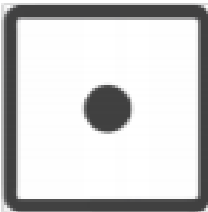

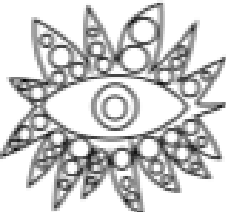
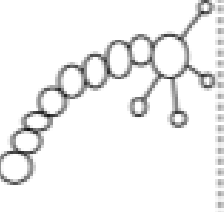
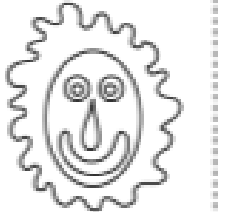
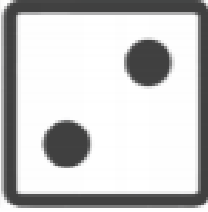

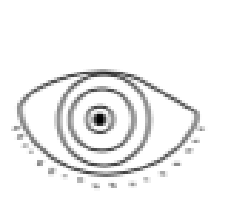

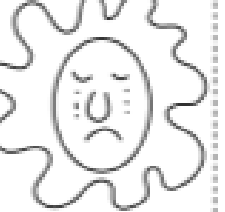
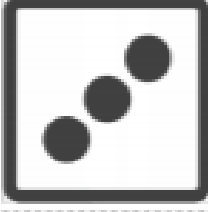
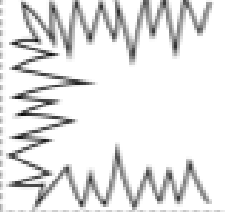
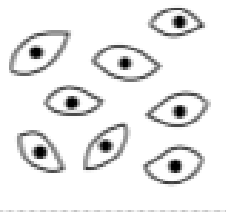
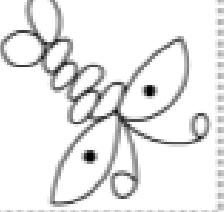
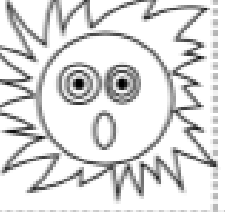
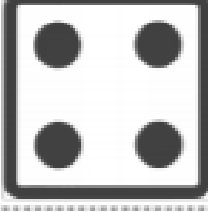
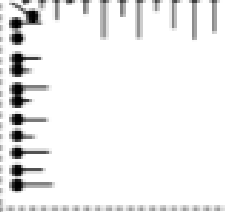
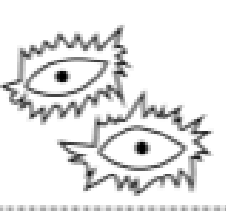
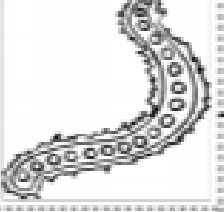
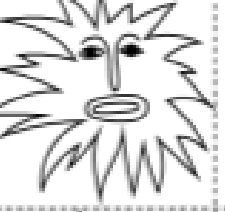
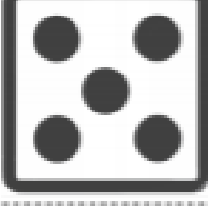
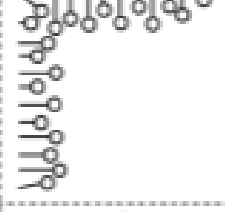
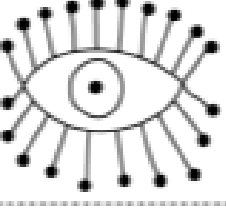
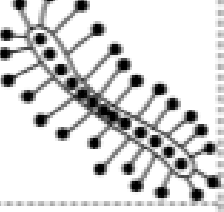
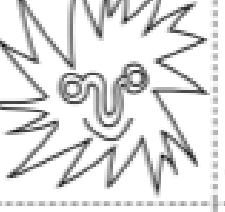
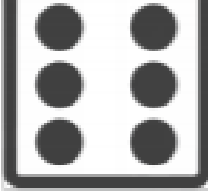

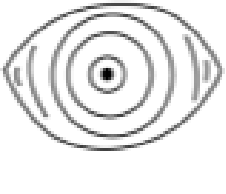
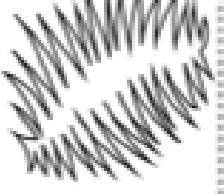
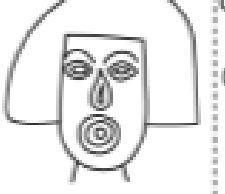


6 Keep adding triangles to form more hexagons until your space is filled up.

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Roll-A-Die Game

Yayoi Kusama "My Eternal Soul"

	1	2	3	4	5
	BORDER	EYES	WORMS	FACES	EXTRAS
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

Yayoi Kusama is a Japanese artist who is famous for her polka dot art.

Learn how to draw Yayoi with her distinctive and colorful look.

