MATTRESS FACTORY TO SCREEN YAYOI KUSAMA DOCUMENTARY

(PITTSBURGH, PA July 2019) – The Mattress Factory will hold a special screening of the Yayoi Kusama documentary *Kusama: Infinity*, on Thursday, August 15, from 6-8 pm. Along with the film, guests will have the opportunity to experience *Infinity Dots, Mirrored Room* and *Repetitive Vision*, two Kusama rooms that are part of the Mattress Factory’s permanent collection, and explore photos and items from Kusama’s Mattress Factory installation in 1996.

The evening will also include light bites and drinks and a Kusama-inspired costume contest, with the winner receiving a free one-year membership to the museum. Tickets for the event are $20/$15 for MF Members and Students and can be purchased here: [https://www.showclix.com/event/kusama-infinity](https://www.showclix.com/event/kusama-infinity).

You can Check out the *Kusama: Infinity* trailer [HERE.](#)

**About Yayoi Kusama**

Yayoi Kusama, the Japanese master painter, sculptor, performance, and installation artist, began her artistic career in the 1950’s. She lived and worked in New York City from the late 1950’s through the early 1970’s, where she was an influential participant in the avant-garde scene. Since her return to Tokyo, Kusama has lived by her own choice in a psychiatric hospital, maintaining an off-site studio with a staff of assistants. Her struggle with mental illness and "normalcy" is channeled into her work, which is all-consuming. Overflowing with repeating anthropomorphic shapes and patterns, her imagery recreates fantastic visions that only she can see. Like her artistic peers Joseph Beuys and Louise Bourgeois, Kusama has created transcendent work from an idiosyncratic personal vision pursued over the course of a lifetime. All of her work has come from a waking vision in which she sat at a table covered with a floral tablecloth, in a room covered with floral wallpaper, and saw that her hands, too, were covered with flowers. Her work explores the obliteration of the self, as the viewer becomes part of the work, reflected in mirrors, obstructed by organic forms, almost as if being sucked into the walls. Kusama’s work has been seen in numerous exhibitions in the United States, Europe and Japan and she was the first artist to represent Japan with a solo show at the 1993 Venice Biennale. She is now the top-selling female artist in the world.

**About the Mattress Factory:** Hailed as the best museum for installation art in the United States, the Mattress Factory invites visitors to experience “art you can get into.” Over the past 41 years, the Mattress Factory has presented and commissioned new installation and performance works by over 750 artists, both established and emerging, who have challenged themselves and their audiences through the support of the museum’s exceptional residency program. The Mattress Factory’s outreach programs serve more than 30,000 students, teachers, adults, and families annually, and its activities as a visitor attraction, educator and employer continue to invigorate Pittsburgh’s North Side. For more information, call 412.231.3169 or visit mattress.org.

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