

# ART

Andy Warhol's quote *Don't think about **making** art, just get it done*, became, for the purpose of this project: *Don't think about **teaching** through art, just get it done*.

This set of 24 cards will, hopefully, guide you towards 'getting it done', towards effective and engaging ways of using art to learn, practise and produce language, stimulate reflection as well as creativity, a combination "devoutly to be wished" in any lesson.

The activities presented here have been designed with more advanced students in mind (from B1 upwards). The pictures themselves are accompanied by brief descriptions, 3 questions and either the *Detective work* or *Creative work* tasks.

Each card gives a lot of food for thought, but it can also become a springboard for even more activities.

Here is what you can do. 😊

Yayoi Kusama - Pumpkin 2014



Yayoi Kusama, a famous Japanese artist has always been fascinated with dots and pumpkins and these two made their way into her numerous works – paintings, sculptures, infinity rooms as well as ... pumpkin polka-dot print shoes or purses. In her world an everyday object has been elevated to the status of fine art. "I love pumpkins, because of their humorous form, warm feeling, and a human-like quality and form", she said in an interview.

1. Think of an everyday object, however minor, that has a special place in your heart.
2. Yayoi Kusama has carved out a niche for herself as a top contemporary artist. What would you like your niche to be?
3. If you were an object, what would you be?

4. **Detective work:** Explore the history of a family heirloom. If your family doesn't have one, research a story of any household object, e.g. a coffee grinder/a padlock /a fork, etc.

After discussing the questions, you can ask students to do one/more of the following tasks:

- Learn more about Yayoi Kusama's life
- Find her exhibitions
- Read/Watch an interview with her
- Watch a documentary about her life
- Explore the lives of other female artists
- Learn something about Japanese art
- Read reviews of Kusama's art
- Go through online comments about her art
- Write about how her art makes them feel
- Find pumpkin recipes

You can also assign each task to a different student/2-3 students and have an all-class presentation with everyone contributing. In this case, a handout where everyone could make notes about what they have learned will be useful so that at the end of the project each student has a complete copy. It might also be a good idea to create a Google Document which everyone could contribute to and share links to the materials they have explored.

Here is an example you can use:

Yayoi Kusama:



Exhibitions:

Interesting questions/quotes from an interview/documentary:

Quotes from different reviews of Kusama's art:

Quotes from online comments about her art:

How does her art make you feel?

Some interesting facts about Japanese art:

Other female artists:

Pumpkin recipe