

# #5 Yayoi Kusama: Light of Life

## Audio Description Script by Fred Brack

“Light of Life,” by 89-year old Japanese contemporary artist Yayoi Kusama, is an enclosed version of her popular “infinity rooms.” This exhibit has been purchased by the Museum.

Standing in the center of a 25’ by 30’ room we see a seven-foot-tall hexagonal tower of mirrors, each of the six sides approximately 3-1/2 feet across. Every second side has a round porthole about a foot in diameter, raised either 3-, 4-, or 5-feet off the ground. Visitors can peer into the portholes, actually sticking their heads in if they wish, to view the infinity room. You may touch the exterior of the exhibit, but please don’t put your hands inside the portholes.

This work of art is called an infinity room because the interior walls of the structure are also mirrored, as are the top and bottom surfaces; so anything inside is reflected over and over again, mirror to mirror. The mirror at the interior top of the structure is covered with half domes of approximately 150 colored neon lights, each about 1” in diameter and lit from within in varying sequences. The colors are red, green, blue, amber, and white. Kusama calls this technique “infinity nets.” Sometimes a single bulb lights, sometimes a whole row, sometimes a geometric shape of lights illuminates, and patterns of bulbs turning on and off march across the surface. As they do, their image is repeated over and over again via the interior mirrored surfaces on top and bottom, giving the viewer the impression of a sea of lights extending as far as one can see, getting smaller and dimmer in the distance.

In addition to the lights, the viewer’s face can be seen, along with the faces of two other visitors, if present.