

YAYOI KUSAMA: Look Now, See Forever

Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane
19 November 2011 – 11 March 2012

MEDIA INQUIRIES
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MEDIA RELEASE

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QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY TO ACQUIRE RARE KUSAMA FLOWER



Image: Yayoi Kusama / *Flowers That Bloom at Midnight* 2011 / Installation in 'Yayoi Kusama: Look Now, See Forever', Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane / Purchased 2012 with funds from the Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Diversity Foundation / Collection: Queensland Art Gallery

The Queensland Art Gallery / Gallery of Modern Art is set to take ownership of a rare flower sculpture created by leading international contemporary artist Yayoi Kusama, thanks to a very generous benefactor.

And Kusama's *The obliteration room* installation at the Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA), which has attracted global press and social media attention, is about to be recreated at London's Tate Modern for a major retrospective of the artist's work opening on February 9.

Queensland Art Gallery Director Tony Ellwood said the massive, brightly coloured flower sculpture was one of four in Kusama's *Flowers that bloom at midnight* installation on display as part of the exhibition 'Yayoi Kusama: Look Now, See Forever', at GOMA until March 11.

'We are delighted that Gallery benefactor Win Schubert has supported in full the acquisition of this work for the Gallery's permanent Collection, via the Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Diversity Foundation,' he said.

'The Queensland Art Gallery's collection of this wonderful artist's work is now one of the most significant in a public museum outside Japan.

'The purchase of the stunning sculpture was only made possible through the Gallery's ongoing relationship with the artist and her studio.

'The flower is one of a series of eighteen works, each of which is a unique edition. Opportunities to purchase a new work by Yayoi Kusama are extremely rare, and all other flowers to date have been acquired for collections.'

Mr Ellwood said *The obliteration room* installation resulted from a collaboration between the artist and the Queensland Art Gallery for the 2002 Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, and has recently been a gift to the Gallery from Kusama.

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'GOMA's exhibition of Kusama's work has been very popular, and the international response to *The obliteration room*, in which visitors cover a completely white room with millions of multi-coloured dot stickers, has been unprecedented,' he said.

'We are pleased that the work will now be included in the major retrospective opening at the Tate Modern this month.

'Yayoi Kusama, who is in her 80s, is one of the most significant and influential artists working today and her work remains relevant and innovative,' he said.



Image: Yayoi Kusama / *The obliteration room* 2011 / Installation at the Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane / Courtesy: Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo / © Yayoi Kusama

'Yayoi Kusama: Look Now, See Forever' is at the Gallery of Modern Art until March 11.

For more information visit www.qag.qld.gov.au/kusama

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