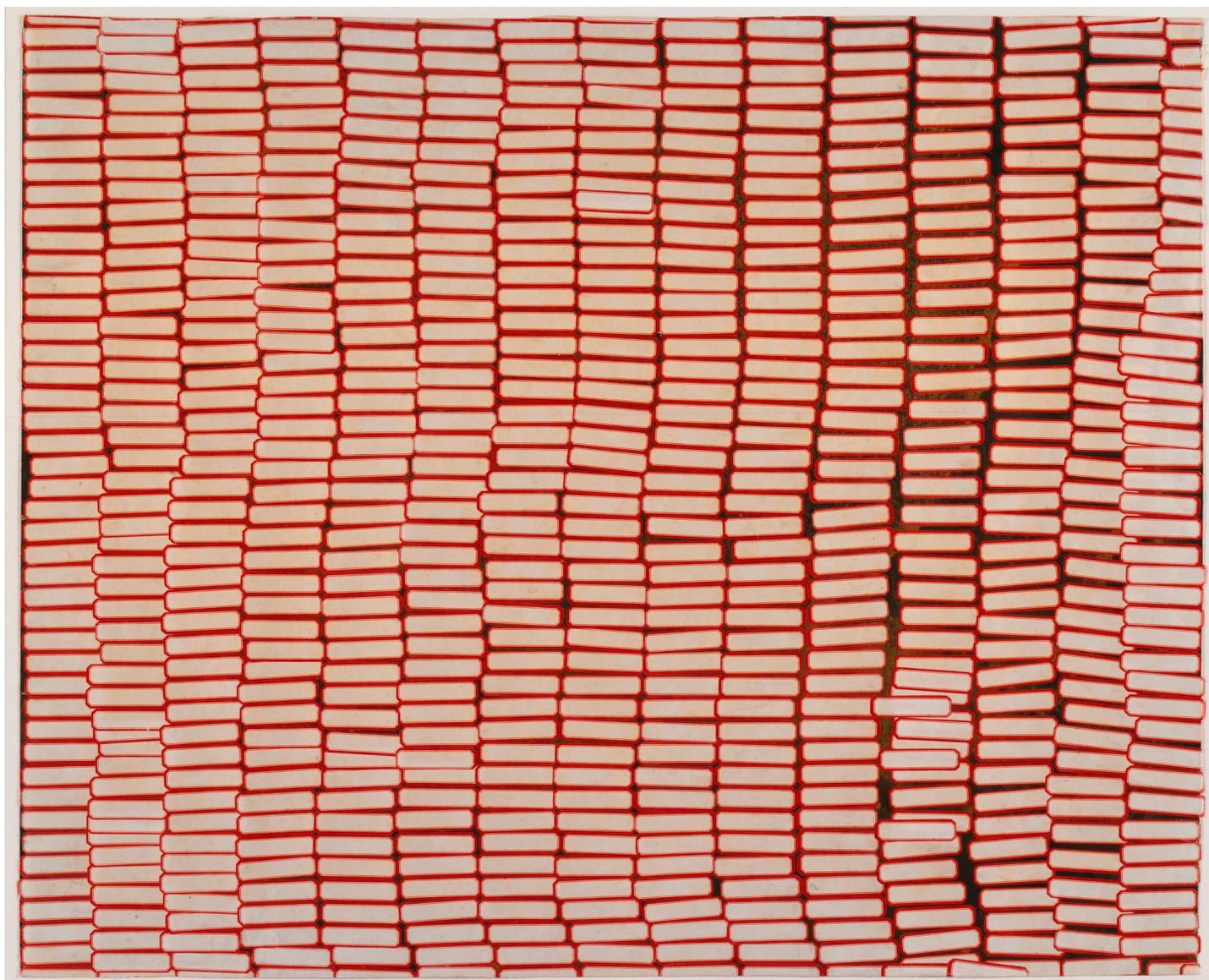


Mondays with MoMA



MoMA

Step 1 Look closely

Questions

1. What shapes do you see in this artwork?
2. How do you think the artist approached arranging the repeated shape?
3. What is the effect of repeating one shape many times?

Step 2 Learn more

When she was a girl, Yayoi Kusama had hallucinations of flowers, dots, and nets—“the same pattern covering the ceiling, the windows, and the walls, and finally all over the room, my body, and the universe.” She said that her use of repeated forms grows out of her struggle with these hallucinations caused by mental illness. The repetition required to make collages like this one are reflected in Kusama’s titles, which often include the words *accumulation* and *infinity*.

This work called *Accumulation of Stamps, 63* is made of labels arranged in columns on paper. Her other *accumulations* include polka dots, mailing labels, and lines. She also created sculptural accumulations by covering everyday objects such as chairs and boats with repeated three dimensional forms.

Step 3 Create an Accumulation

Materials: a drawing utensil, a large sheet of paper (as large as you can find), *optional*: paper in a different color and glue

1. Decide what mark, shape, or object you want to use to create an accumulation.
2. Use any drawing utensil you like, but try to limit yourself to one or two colors. Draw your selected mark over your entire sheet of paper. You can cover your paper in a random pattern, or you can plan your design (like, rows, concentric circles, etc).
3. *Alternative*: After you have selected your shape, cut out as many of that shape as you can. Glue them onto your large sheet of paper, either in a random pattern or in a planned design.

Step 4 Share!

Share your artwork with a friend or classmate Or, you can email it to us at MoMA: schoolprograms@moma.org



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Image: Yayoi Kusama. *Accumulation of Stamps, 63*. Pasted labels and ink on paper. Gift of Philip Johnson. © 2021 Yayoi Kusama