

YAYOI KUSAMA

Dots Obsession

September 15th – December 16th

For its second exhibition, Wiels has invited one of the most important contemporary artists: Yayoi Kusama. Her works, which have been exhibited from MOMA in New York to the Venice Biennial and which have deeply influenced contemporary art, will be installed in Belgium for the very first time.

At this event, the artist will adapt a monumental project originally conceived for the Haus der Kunst in Munich. Made of giant inflatable balloons, into some of which the visitors can enter, the installation makes use of the dot pattern which variety the artist has explored for over 40 years. With this formal tool, Yayoi Kusama weaves a fairy-like yet frightening landscape, which absorbs the space as much as the spectator.

For Kusama, dots are initially the subject of her childhood hallucinations in which her environment and herself were submerged by a proliferation of dots. With time she has transformed these threatening experiences into a powerful means by which she de- and reconstructs the world.

Kusama's work has sometimes absorbed and sometimes anticipated the most important art trends of the last 40 years: Minimalism, Pop Art and Fluxus. Still today still she continues to give new forms to her aesthetic universe. These last years she has created installations which not only take up the space they occupy, but also have the ambition to alter the experience of the visitors by integrating them into her work.

By playing with different levels of scale, reflection and repetition, Kusama provokes a feeling of vertigo and disorientation both disturbing and liberating.

For Wiels, this show thus represents the opportunity to pay homage to one of the most important artists of our time and to share the “Kusama” experience with the Belgian public for the first time. The exhibition will be accompanied by a programme of historic films directed by the artist.

This exhibition is a production of Studio Kusama in cooperation with Franck Gautherot and Seung-Duk Kim, Le Consortium, Dijon and Chris Dercon, Haus der Kunst, Munich