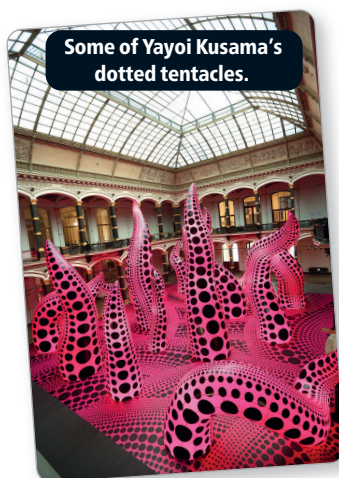




Make a Yayoi Kusama dottopus

What you need

- Two sheets of red paper
- Black pen
- Scissors
- Black pencil
- White paint
- Things to make dots with (the rubber end of a pencil, chopsticks)
- Glue stick



Some of Yayoi Kusama's dotted tentacles.

Olaf Falafel is a children's author, illustrator, dad of two daughters and a comedian. During the first lockdown he created an online Art Club (tinyurl.com/TWJ-olafart). He has three rules. Rule 1: There are no rules. Rule 2: Ignore the first rule. Rule 3: Always wear stripes. Over to you, Olaf...

The artist I am looking at here, Yayoi Kusama, completely ignores my third rule because she is absolutely dotty about dots. She is a Japanese artist who uses polka dots in pretty much all of her work.

If you ever see a photo of her you can guarantee she'll be wearing dots, usually red and white. She is 92 years old and she is still creating what she calls her "obsessive art". One of my favourite Yayoi Kusama works is a sculpture in Norway called *Shine of Life*. It is basically a set of giant red tentacles covered in white dots emerging from a lake, just like some kind of incredible, funky giant octopus.

Dotty tentacles are a theme in Kusama's work and they've inspired me to make my own octopus picture.



Olaf Falafel and his dottopus.



1 The first step is to get all your items ready and lay out everything you need in front of you.



2 Now, on one sheet of red paper, carefully draw the outline of an octopus with a pen.



3 Cut it out with scissors and then flip it over so you can't see the initial outlines.



4 Using your black pencil, shade a dark area on your second sheet of red paper.



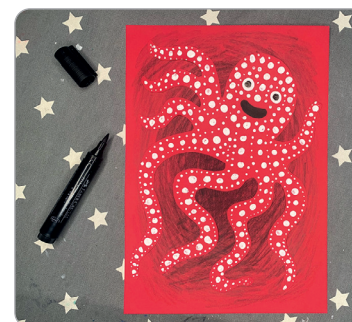
5 Dip your finger in the white paint and give your octopus two eyes. Draw a mouth with the pen.



6 I dipped the rubber end of a pencil in white paint to make the bigger dots on my octopus.



7 Next use something with a smaller end for the smaller dots. I used a chopstick.



8 Stick the octopus on the shaded red paper, add two black pupils, and your Kusama dottopus is done.

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