

HAA 0020,  
4/10/2018

ART AND RESISTANCE:  
MODERN &  
CONTEMPORARY ART IN  
ASIA

## ACTIVITY: BRAINSTORMING

“In the world today all culture, all literature and art belong to definite classes and are geared to definite political lines. There is in fact no such thing as art for art's sake, art that stands above classes, art that is detached from or independent of politics. Proletarian literature and art are part of the whole proletarian revolutionary cause; they are, as Lenin said, cogs and wheels in the whole revolutionary machine.”

- Mao Zedong on art and politics

“All of that art-for-art's-sake stuff is BS ... What are these people talking about? Are you really telling me that Shakespeare and Aeschylus weren't writing about kings? *All good art is political!* There is none that isn't. And the ones that try hard not to be political are political by saying, 'We love the status quo.' .... That all started in the period of state art, when you had the communists and fascists running around doing this poster stuff, and the reaction was 'No, no, no; there's only aesthetics.' My point is that it has to be both: beautiful and political at the same time. I'm not interested in art that is not in the world.”

- Toni Morrison



# POLITICS AND ART IN COMMUNIST CHINA

1911: Fall of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1912).

1912: Sun Yat-sen becomes the provisional President of the Republic of China, leading the Kuomintang nationalist party.

1920s: Communist party formed.

1927-1950: Civil war between Communist party and Kuomintang

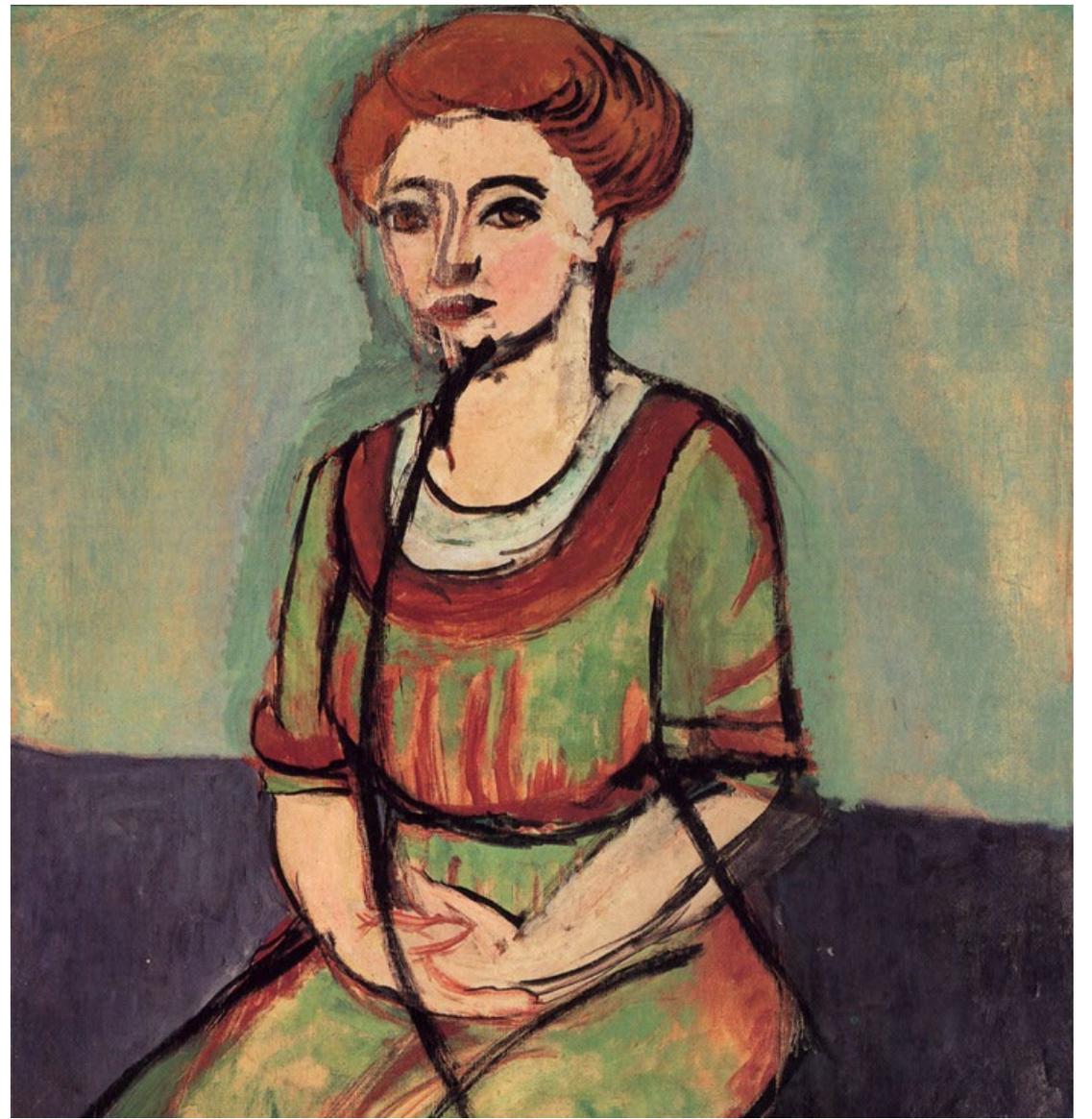
1937-1945: Second Sino-Japanese War-Japan invades China. Civil war put on hold to unite against Japan.

1949: Civil war ends with Communist victory, the People's Republic of China is established under Mao Zedong.





Guan Zilan (a.k.a. Violet Kwan), *Portrait of Miss L*,  
China (Shanghai), 1929, oil on canvas



Henri Matisse, *Portrait of Olga  
Merson*, France, 1929, oil on canvas

# Politics and Art

“Many comrades like to talk about "a mass style". But what does it really mean? It means that the thoughts and feelings of our writers and artists should be fused with those of the masses of workers, peasants and soldiers. To achieve this fusion, they should conscientiously learn the language of the masses.” –Mao Zedong



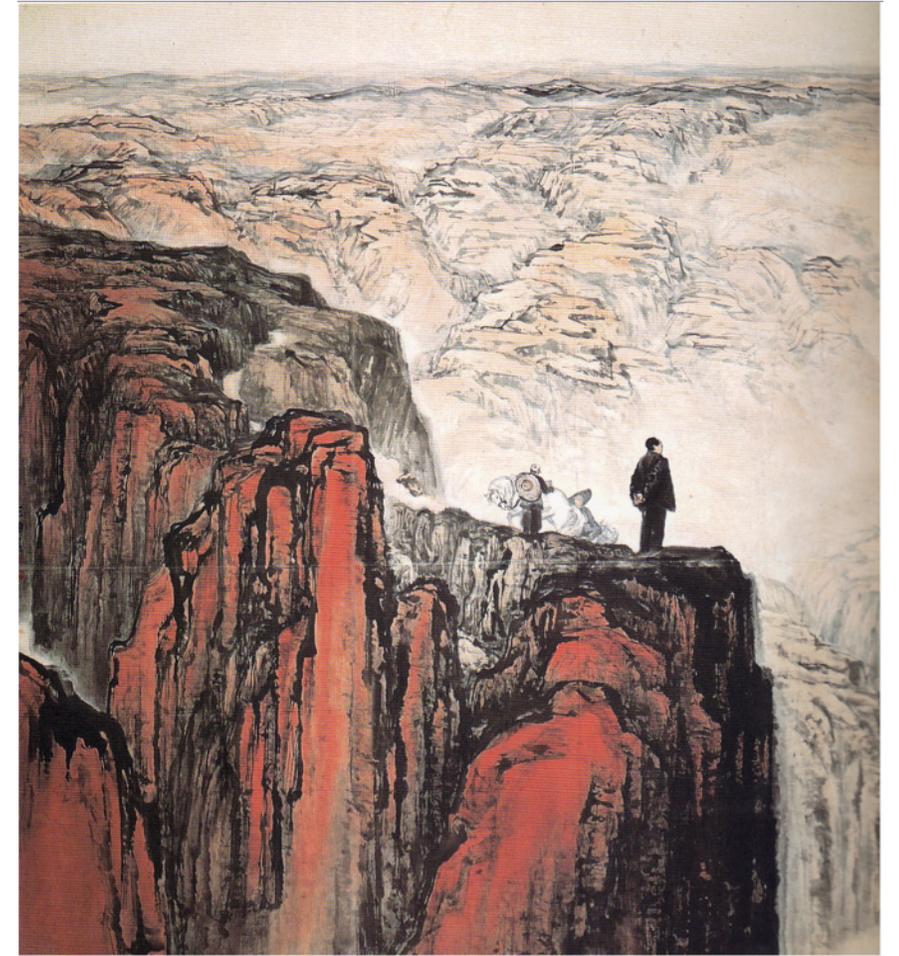
Liu Gongli, *Chairman Mao Reporting on the Rectification in Yan'an, 1951*



KEYWORD: Shi Lu, *Fighting in Northern Shaanxi*, 1959, ink and color on paper



Shen Zhou, *Poet on a Mountaintop*



Shi Lu, *Fighting in Northern Shaanxi*

# Socialist Realism



ANON. POSTER OF DONG XIWEN, *THE FOUNDING OF THE NATION*, 1953. ORIGINALLY OIL ON CANVAS



1955 Revision



1967 Revision



Aleksandr  
Gerasimov, *Stalin  
and Voroshilov in the  
Kremlin, Russia,*  
1938, oil on canvas



KEYWORD: Sun Zixi, *In Front of Tian'anmen Square*, 1964, oil on canvas



Zhang Zhenshi, *Portrait of Chairman Mao*,  
1950-57, oil painting (original)



TOP: Andy Warhol 'Mao Tse-tung,' 1972, screen prints

BOTTOM: Andy Warhol, 'Untitled' from 'Marilyn Monroe (Marilyn),' 1967, screen print



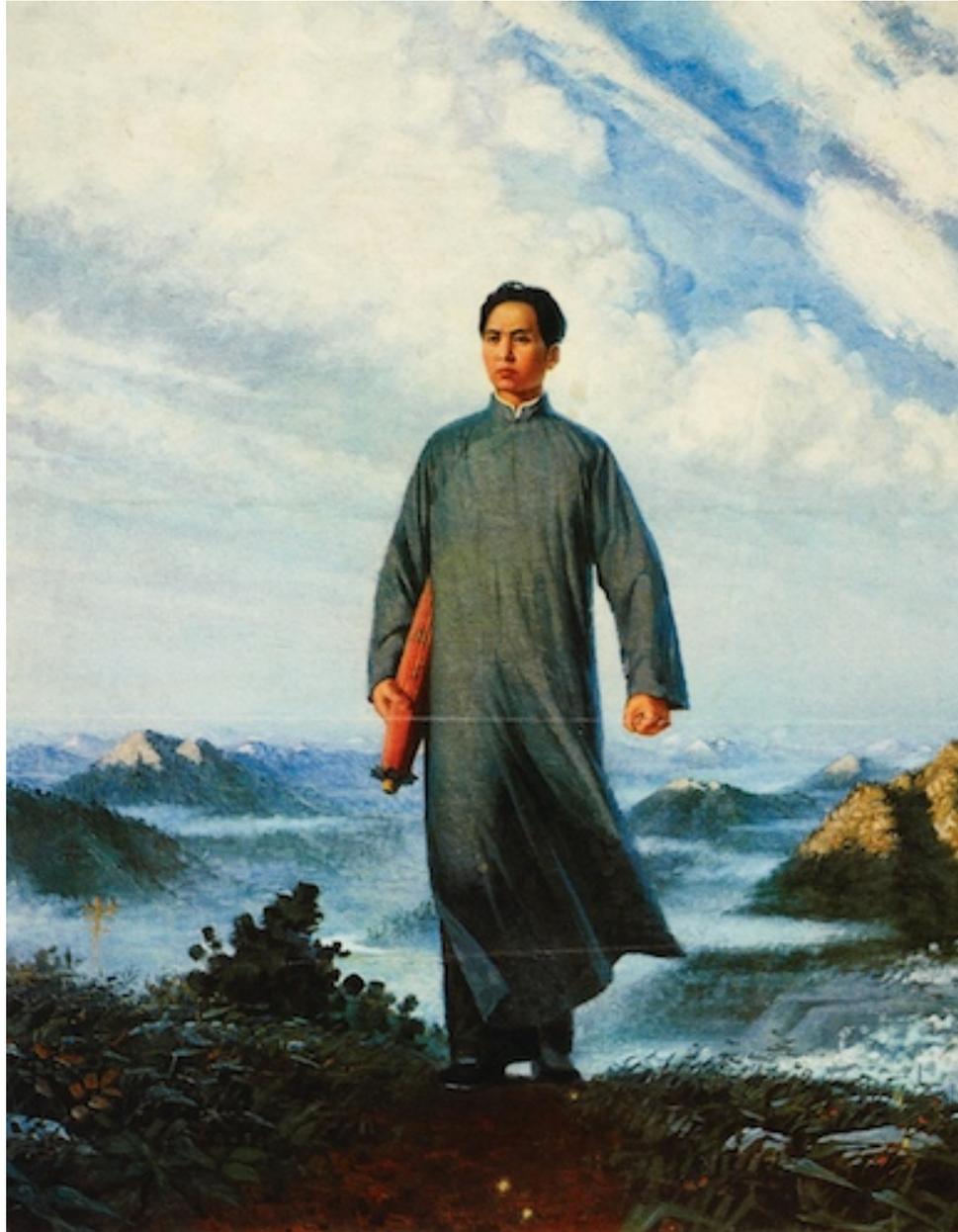
Yu Youhan, 'Untitled (Mao Marilyn),' 2005, paint



KEYWORD: Sun Zixi, *In Front of Tian'anmen Square*, 1964, oil on canvas



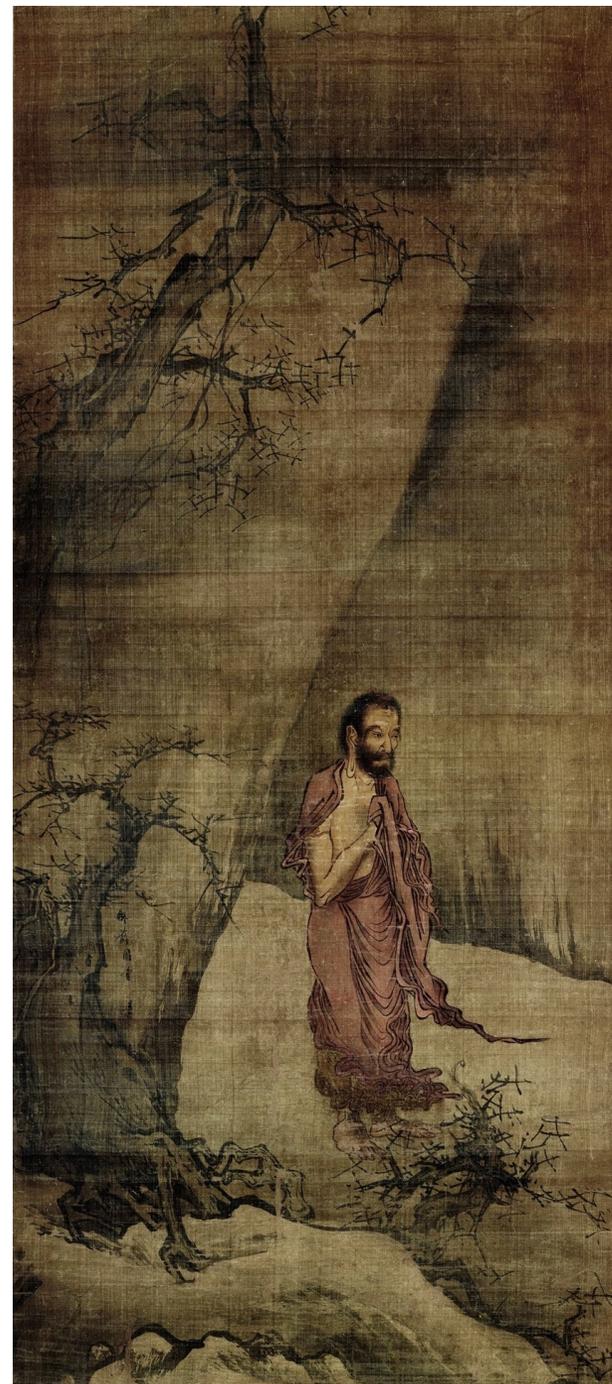
Wang Jinsong, "Taking a Picture in Front of Tian'anmen Square," 1992, oil on canvas



**KEYWORD:** Liu Chunhua,  
*Chairman Mao Goes to Anyuan,*  
1967, poster (original – oil on  
canvas)



Poster from the painting by Chen Yanning, *Chairman Mao Inspects the Guangdong Countryside*, 1972, oil on canvas



Liang Kai,  
*Sakyamuni  
Coming Down  
from the  
Mountains,*  
Southern Song,  
ink on silk

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# CONTEMPORARY ART IN ASIA: REUSE AND REINTERPRETATION

HAA 0020, 12/5/2017

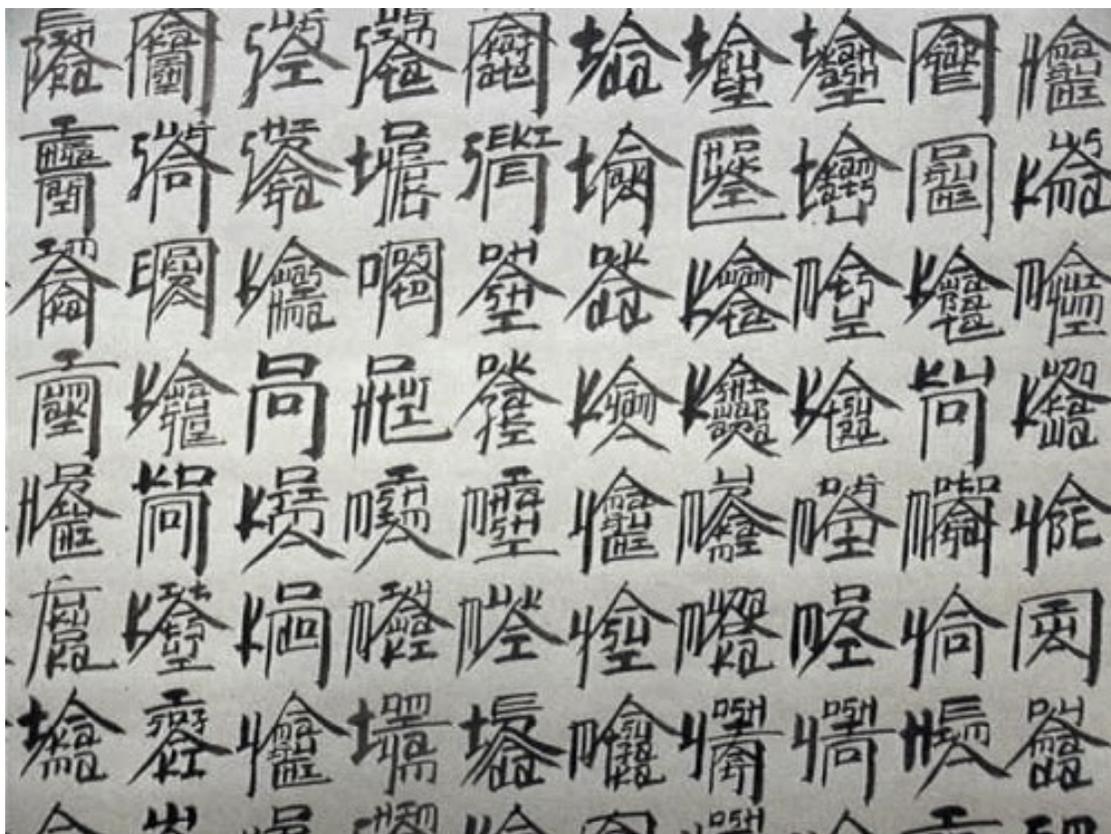
- **Postmodernism:** Art reaction against modernism, born of scepticism and a suspicion of reason. It challenged the notion that there are universal certainties or truths
- **Conceptual art:** art in which the idea or concept is the most important aspect of the work. “When an artist uses a conceptual form of art, it means that all of the planning and decisions are made beforehand and the execution is a perfunctory affair.” (Sol LeWitt)
- **Installation & site specific art:** Large-scale, mixed-media constructions, often designed for a specific place or for a temporary period of time
- **Performance art:** Artworks that are created through actions performed by the artist or other participants, which may be live or recorded, spontaneous or scripted
- **Pop Art:** art movement that emerged in the 1950s and flourished in the 1960s in America and Britain, drawing inspiration from sources in popular and commercial culture



**KEYWORD:** Xu Bing, *Book From the Sky*, 1987-1991, paper on ink handscrolls



Xu Bing, *Book From the Sky*,  
1987-1991, paper on ink  
handscrolls



Xu Bing, *New English Calligraphy*, 1998, ink on paper



Xu Bing, *Landscape*, 2001, ink on paper



Yue Minjun, *Execution*, 1995, oil on canvas



Francisco Goya, *The Third of May*





Wang Guangyi, *Great Criticism: Coca Cola*, 1991-94, oil and acrylic on canvas

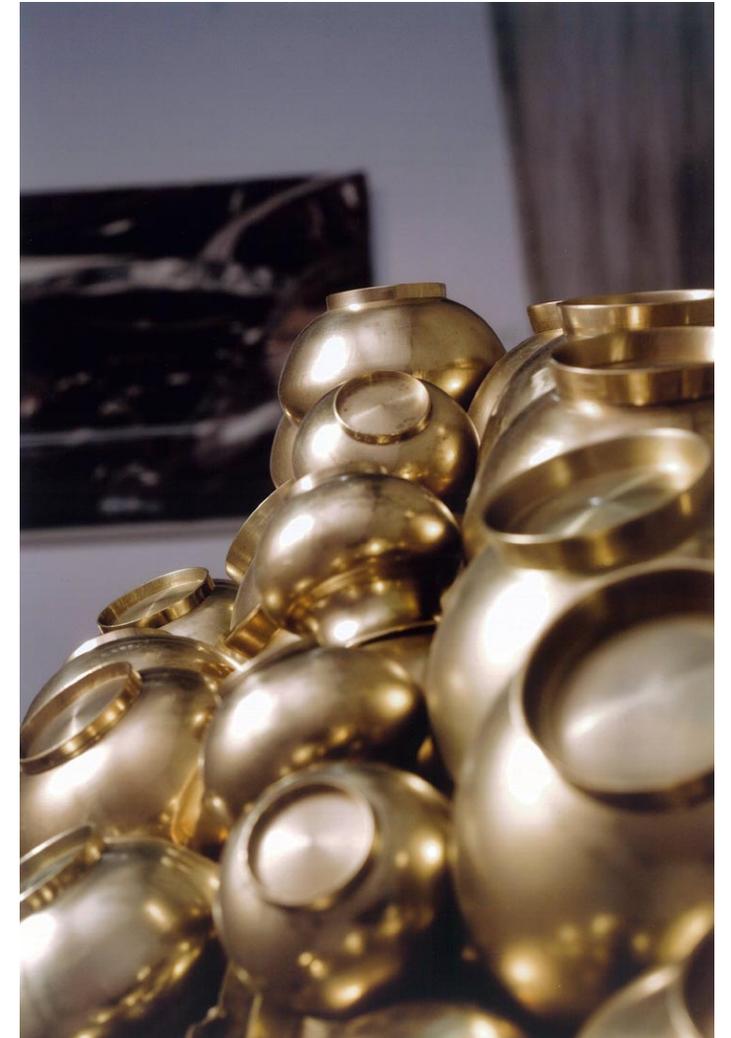




Shahzia Sikander, *Pleasure Pillars*,  
Pakistan, 2001, color, watercolor, and  
ink and tea on wasli paper



**KEYWORD:** Subodh Gupta, *U.F.O.*, India, 2007,  
brass kitchen objects





Subodh Gupta, *U.F.O.*, India, 2007, brass kitchen objects



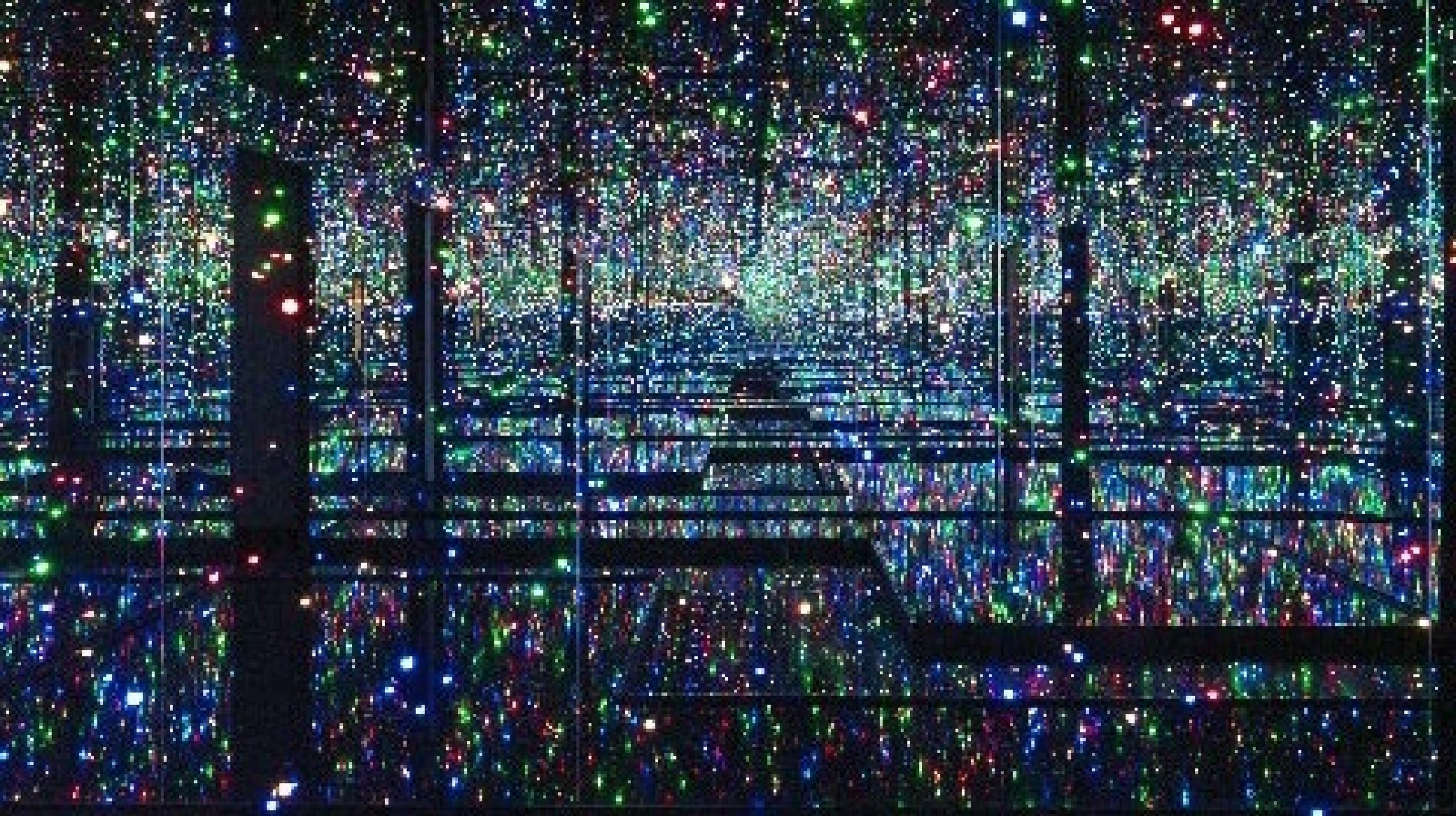
Marcel Duchamp, *Fountain*, original 1917, porcelain urinal and signature

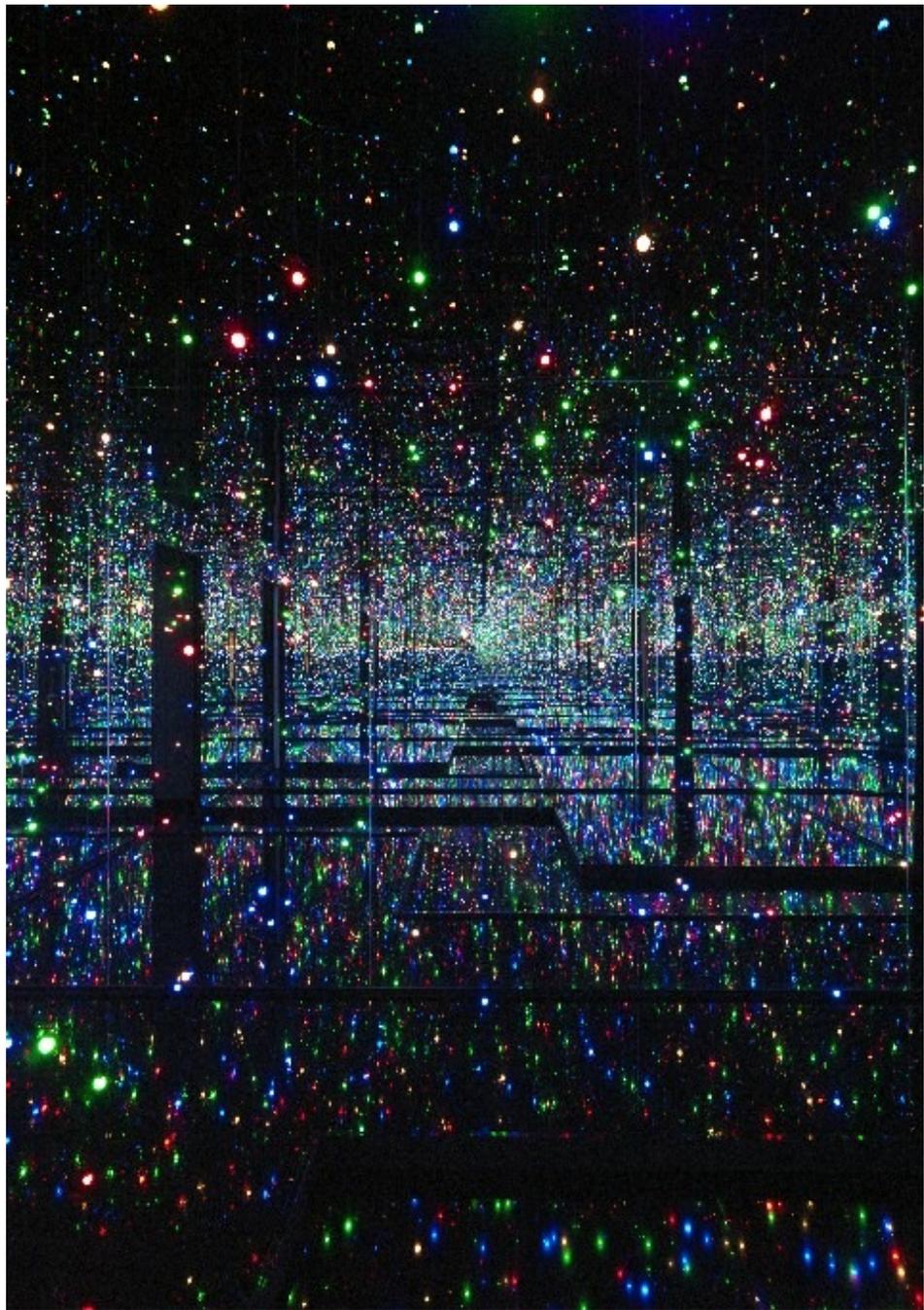


Subodh Gupta, *Spill*, India, 2007, Stainless steel and stainless steel utensils



Subodh Gupta, *Love*, India, 2014, Stainless steel structure, brass tongs



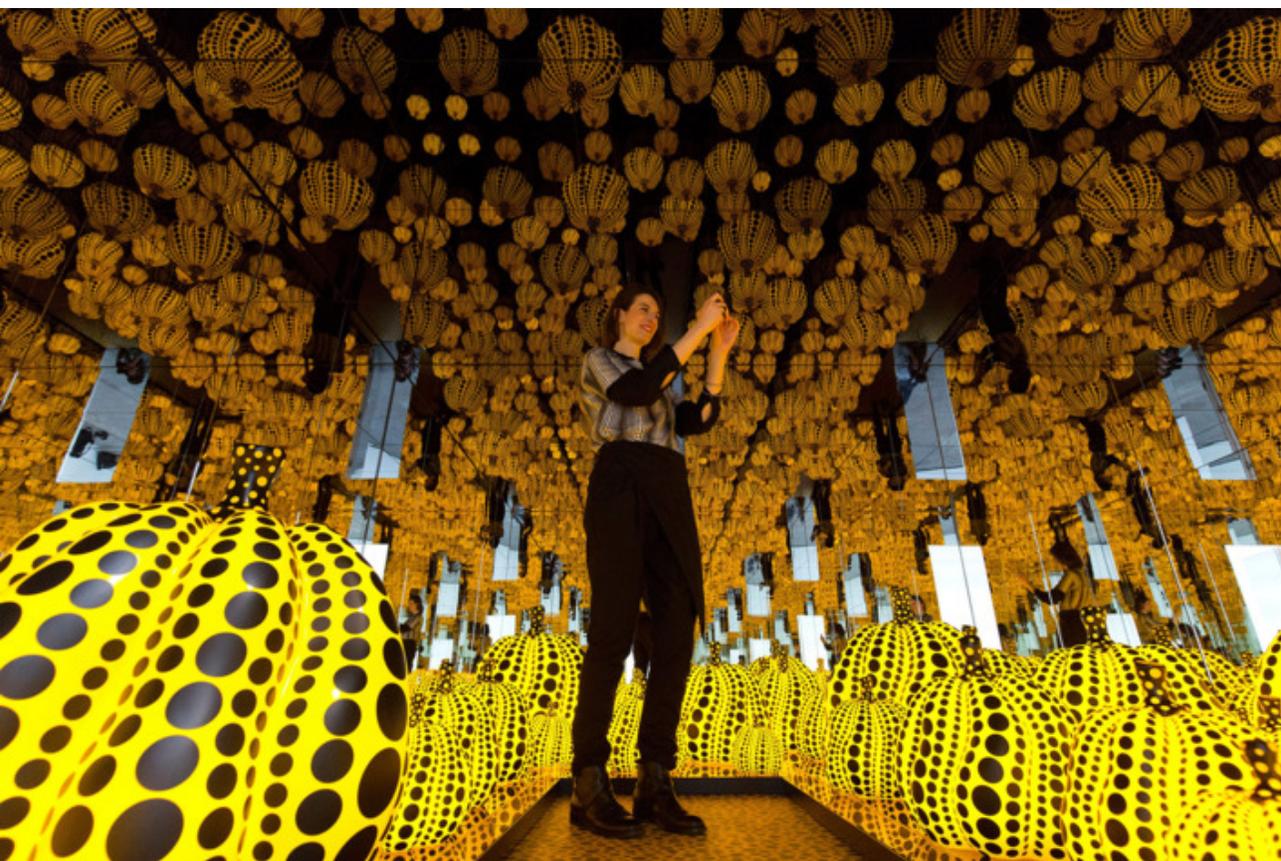


[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8VwJMw\\_fLvl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8VwJMw_fLvl)

KEYWORD: Yayoi Kusama, *Infinity Mirrored Room*  
– *Filled with the Brilliance of Life*, Japan, 2011,  
room with lights and mirrors



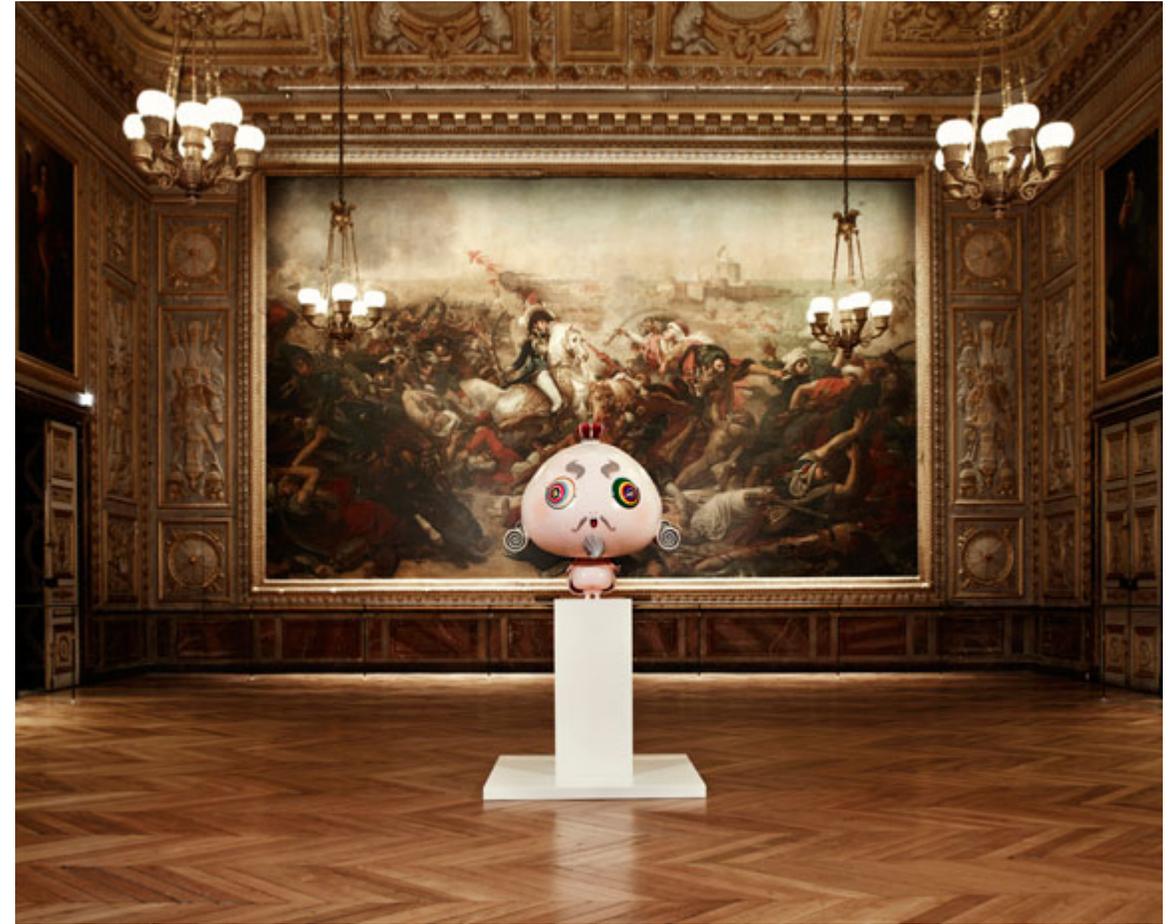
Yayoi Kusama,  
*Infinity Dots  
Mirrored Room*, at  
Mattress Factory,  
1996, adhesive  
dots, black light,  
Formica, mirrors



Yayoi Kusama, *Pumpkin Infinity Room* in London



Yayoi Kusama, *Pumpkin*, at Naoshima in Japan



Takashi Murakami, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, 2005 (above), *Flower Matango*, 2001–06 (left), at Versailles



MoMA SPECIAL EDITION  
THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART



Takashi Murakami and Louis  
Vuitton collaboration purse