



An Art Experiment: How to make a Lava Lamp

This short art activity is aimed at introducing children to artists and art history concepts. It also encourages creativity and play. Send in your images to ppe@casulapowerhouse.com or #CPACCREATIVES on social media.



Image by Cayn Rosmarin, *Lava Lamps*, 2017

Make your own Lava-Lamp:

Density: describes how concentrated an object is. Density refers to how much mass/ weight an object has. Density also determines whether an object will float or sink in another substance.

Polarity: is the molecules that are positively charged at one end and negatively charged at the other. It also determines how atoms bond with each other.

Ingredients

- Jar
- Oil
- Water
- Alka Seltzer
- Food colouring



Method:

1. Fill the bottle about a quarter full with water.
2. Top up to the (near) top with oil.
3. The oil and water should separate into two layers
4. Once the oil and water have separated, add enough food colouring to get the colour you want. The colour will mix with the water at the bottom.
5. Pop in half or a full an Alka Seltzer tablet and watch the bubbles form.
6. Add more Alka seltzer little by little to keep the bubbles rising and falling.

Questions and Activities:

- What has a higher density: water or oil?
- Why does the alka seltzer create bubbles/blobs?
- Write your own definition of polarity.
- Make your own lava lamp.

Yayoi Kusama: is queen of the polka dots. She was born in Japan in 1929. She describes herself as a 'obsessional artist', where she uses polka dots in paintings, installations and sculptures. She began painting after experiencing hallucinations as a child. She moved to New York in the 50's to continue her desire to become an artist. She moved back to Japan in the 70s. By putting dots and marks all over her artworks, she feels as if she is making them melt into the bigger universe. She is an art pioneer and puts her creativity into many other things as well like music and fashion.

Questions and Activities:

- What materials does Kusama use in his work. Make a list of the materials that he uses
- Make your own mark artwork. Cover an object, paper in dots.
- Do you like Kusama's work? If yes **or no**, write why.



Yayoi Kusama, *The Obliteration Room*, 2002, furniture, white paint, dot, stickers, QAGOMA



Yayoi Kusama, *Mushrooms (Obst)*, 2003, acrylic on canvas



Yayoi Kusama, *Infinity Mirrored Room- My heart is dancing into the Universe*, 2018, Courtesy Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo/ Singapore/Shanghai and Victoria Miro, London/Venice