

THE JAPAN VOICE

COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers' Viewpoints



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FAMED JAPANESE CONTEMPORARY ARTIST YAYOI KUSAMA COMES TO THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDENS 2020 Exhibition to Feature Mirrored Environments, Large Sculptures, Sketches and More

Yayoi Kusama, famed Japanese contemporary artist best known for her sculptures, installations and use of brightly colored polka dots, will take over the New York Botanical Gardens in 2020 with whimsical new works.

The "unprecedented landmark" presentation will remain at the Garden from May to November 2020 so that visitors can experience her major new works and her iconic mirrored environments, larger-than-life polka-dotted flowers and pumpkins, paintings and her first-ever participatory greenhouse installation across the seasons, according to the Garden.

A selection of her works will be mounted outdoors and inside the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, where a special horticultural showcase will feature her large-scale paintings. At the Luesther T. Mertz Library building, there will be several immersive experiences, as well as her earlier, intimate works, including botanical sketches, works on paper, nature-inspired col-

lages, soft sculptures and more. "We are thrilled to present this unprecedented installation of Yayoi Kusama's work, including new sculptures made especially for our site," said Dr. Carrie Reborra Barratt, CEO and President of the New York Botanical Garden. "In her lifetime of finding inspiration in nature and pushing against boundaries and biases, she has developed a unique lexicon for artistic expression. While these works appear as mostly abstract forms to viewers, they are manifestations of how she sees the universe, specifically the natural world. We are grateful to her for sharing her vision, and helping us realize this once-in-a-lifetime display at the Garden for our visitors." (Tiff Ferentini)

Photo: Yayoi Kusama (2010), Courtesy of Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo/Singapore



Yamabe who used to work for a trading company said, "Don't be lazy when you do your routine work. Always be polite to others."

The participants asked several questions to the panelists, such as, "When is the right timing to make a move and apply? Can I talk about this with my boss?" The panelists

responded, "During your first year, work as hard and as much as you can. Then the results will follow."

H.E. (Excellency) Ambassador Yasuhisa Kawamura, Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, encouraged the participants, saying, "We want to gain Japanese staff in the United Nations so we will have more presence and a stronger voice. We are hoping that you can help us do that. Please do your best." (Ryoichi Miura/Translated by Chikako Iwasaki)



HOW WE GOT THE POSITION Former JPOs Share Experiences With Current JPOs at The United Nations

The Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations held a networking event with Junior Professional Officers (JPO) on the afternoon of July 11. The main purpose of this event was to recruit Japanese staff to the United Nations. Former JPOs talked to current JPOs about how they got their positions with their experience and shared tips on getting the positions.

The main objective of the United Nations JPO Programme is to provide young professionals with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the field of multilateral international cooperation through a learning experience under the supervision of specialists. The Japanese Government covers the fee for this program because they want these Japanese young professionals to become permanent staff at the United

Nations.

On the day of the event, they talked about 1), how to apply, including the best timing, how many people apply and vacancies; 2), how they managed to maintain a good balance with their main job and this program; 3), how they prepared their resume and for the interview; 4) networking; and 5), tips on getting the position.

The panelists were Naomi Ichikawa, Executive Manager (Partnerships) Office of Executive Director at UNICEF; Ganji Maeno, Finance and Budget Officer, Office of Programme Planning, Finance and Budget (OPPFB) Management

Strategy, Policy and Compliance at the United Nations; Ken Okamoto-Kaminski, HR Specialist, Integrated Solutions, Office of Human Resources, Bureau for Management Services at the United Nations Development Program; Naoko Kuramochi (Ujihashi), Political Affairs Officer, Policy, Knowledge Management and Coordination Division (PKCD), United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism; and Norihito Yamabe, Associate Political Affairs Officer, United Nations Security Council, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED).

Ichikawa of UNICEF said, "You have to work for other departments, not only for the department you belong to. Doing so will earn you a good reputation."

Maeno said, "You have to appeal yourself. Your application form should be checked by a native speaker. If you can write good documents, you will be needed."

Okamoto in human resources said, "Make the application form simple. Your work experience and performance should match what they want."

Kuramochi said, "To form a good relationship with your boss is important. Also, your career has to have a story."

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- HOW to APPLY
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