Yayoi Kusama

Pumpkin (M)

2016

Bronze

Approximately 1.4m high by 1m in diameter

From the info panel on the gallery wall : Referencing Yayoi Kusama’s childhood, *Pumpkin (M)* evokes memories of growing up in a family who cultivated seeds and grew kabocha squash in the fields that surrounded their home. The artist sees the pumpkin as a potent symbol of the sacred bond between nature and humanity.

Kusama is a 93 year old artist and pumpkins are a re-occurring theme in her work.

This sculpture sits on a clean white plinth, elevated about 20cms from the golden parquetry floor.

This is a bulbous bronze sculpture, loosely based on the form of a Japanese pumpkin, wider at the bottom and narrower at the top, with a section of its stem attached as though it has been freshly lopped from the vine. The skin is rendered with patterns of circles all over it, and the unusual shape comprises bulbous wedges rising like thick fingers to meet each other at the stem.

Up the length of these sections, neat vertical rows of black circles, larger circles where the shape protrudes the most outward, in each finger-like wedge and uniform rows of circles becoming smaller as the sections indent to meet each other.

The black circles are shallow cut outs into the pumpkin’s surface. Unlike the bronze vegetable, the pumpkin’s whole stem is black with polished bronze circles decorating it’s shape. Its stem protrudes jaunty up and out.