



Art in Love

A delightful new exhibit explores the mysteries and nuances of love through contemporary art. **Tiffany Parks** takes a gander.

Love: it's one of the most universally recognized emotions, a defining aspect of humanity, and the unrivaled inspiration of artists since time immemorial. An innovative new exhibit hitting the Eternal City this month explores the concept of love in the works of the most influential artists of the past century. The setting is the Chiostro del Bramante, an exquisite Renaissance cloister that has been transformed into an exhibition space for some of the biggest shows in town. *Love: Contemporary Art Meets Love* displays works by dozens of fascinating contemporary artists, including Tom Wesselmann, Andy Warhol, Robert Indiana, Gilbert & George, Francesco Vezzoli, Tracey Emin, Marc Quinn, Francesco Clemente, and many more.

It's impossible to walk into a museum and not find a work of art representing love, from Titian's masterpiece *Profane Love* to Klimt's iconic *The Kiss*. But contemporary artists are exploring new avenues and techniques to

illustrate this most indefinable and complex of emotions. Take, for example, Yayoi Kusama's *All the Eternal Love I Have for the Pumpkins* (pictured above). One of the most Instagrammed images of all time, the work places the viewer inside a 360° kaleidoscope of a seemingly endless number of polka dot-bearing pumpkins, thanks to a room lined with mirrors.

This exhibit investigates love in all its infinite facets and variations, from the rapture of young love to the misery of unrequited love, as well as all the emotions that can accompany love: joy, anticipation, passion, selflessness, trust, misunderstanding, ambiguity, jealousy, hatred, and despair.

The show invites total sensory involvement, embracing the concept of an evolving, open-access museum. A policy that allows the works on display to be freely photographed encourages the public to interact with the exhibit by sharing their images on social media with the official hashtag #chiostrolove.

