

Art Appreciation



Jackson Pollock 1912-1956

Today in Art Appreciation we learned about Jackson Pollock. Pollock once said, “The painting has a life of its own. I try to let it come through.” He truly did just that as he would put his canvases/cloths on the floor and directly stand on them as he created. He would move all around the floor not only using his hand and wrist but in essence his whole body as he used many different instruments to distribute the paint. Sometimes he just freely poured from the can, sometimes used string or wire, and sometimes used a brush. Pollock always controlled the drips and splatters. He knew where he was putting his colors and how he wanted it to look. It was a very organic and visual style and many have said it’s impossible to truly duplicate or forge. He was a pioneer and major force in the abstract expressionist movement and created an art style that is truly rooted as American in history. His most renowned pieces were from 1947-1950 during his “drip period”. Oddly enough at the peak of his fame, he abandoned the drip style. His work lives on not only in museums, but through many cultural references.

We watched a short video clip of Pollock in action with a voice over from the artist himself. If you would like to watch this it’s at <http://www.nga.gov/feature/pollock/process3qt.shtm>

There is also a fun interactive site where you can create a Pollock style piece on the screen at www.jacksonpollock.org This is also available to use on iPads or iPhones.

Splatter paint here we come! The students went outside and created their own Pollock. Lots of creativity and freedom of style!