

Jackson Pollock



Jackson Pollock 1912-1956

- Was one of 5 boys. His 3 older brothers were artists also.
- He was born in Wyoming but grew up in Arizona and mostly California.
- He and his wife Lee Krasner moved to Springs on Long Island, New York where his studio was in the barn. It is now operated by the State University of New York.
- His first solo show was in 1943 in New York.
- Influenced by Thomas Hart Benton (and studied with him), and the Mexican Muralists Siqueiros and Orozco.
- He struggled with depression and his life sadly ended in a car crash at the age of 44.
- His work is seen in many cultural references (sayings, movies, songs, television). Is a true American art form.

The Method

- Used many instruments to distribute the paint. Not just brushes but sticks, wire, string, whatever inspired him.
- He created by putting the large canvas/cloth on the floor and not only used his hand/wrist to distribute the paint but his whole body as he moved. He even sometimes directly poured the paint right out of the can onto the cloth.
- Pollock always controlled the drips and splatter. He always knew where he was putting his colors and how he wanted his master piece to look.
- His peak of success came during 1947-1950 with his “drip period”. Oddly after then he stopped this style.

“The painting has a life of its own. I try to let it come through.”



Pollock in action...

- ▣ <http://www.nga.gov/feature/pollock/process3qt.shtm>

Just how large were his pieces?



Male and Female (1942)



Blue (Moby Dick) (1943)



Number 5 (1948)

Sold in November 2006 for \$140,000,000



Number 1, Lavender Mist (1950)



Blue Poles: No. 11 (1952)



Black and White paintings

Did many in strictly black paints, about 20 or more.



Our project today...

- We are going to make our own Jackson Pollock inspired creation.
- We will be using paints, and “distributing” them in the “drip style” method on a cloth on the ground.
- Remember Pollock always used control and knew where he wanted to place the paint. We will need to do the same!
- Please be careful of your clothes and shoes. No goofing around with the paints please!