

POLLOCK, JACKSON *One*



Primary Focus: Abstract Expressionism

Secondary Focus: Post - Modern

Pollock's dense, wall-sized, abstract expressionist paintings are at once chaotic and intricate. Students experience a different dimension of expression through a study of this art movement.

Every new art movement breaks with tradition in some way. The new tradition that emerges allows the viewer to see things in a new way causing us to rethink and reflect. The genius of Abstract Expressionism is that it tore down all of the previous notions of what paintings looked like. Pollock created a new, very powerful, radical method where the paint itself - not a figural image - takes on a complex form that pulsates with energy.

Discuss how the **process** itself is paramount to Pollock's work. Like a choreographed dance Pollock moved around the canvas dropping, pouring, spattering, flinging. The chance effects of the falling paint are the antithesis of carefully planned paintings that contain perspective.

Abstract Expressionism. Another of the many "isms" in art history. Discuss the meaning of this befitting name.

Post - Modern. The era of Modern art has long since past. Post - Modern refers to the art produced after WWII and the start of the digital age.

Focus the discussion on work Number 1A.

Measure out the dimensions of this painting.

IN CLASS ACTIVITY SUGGESTION: BRING IN ONE LARGE SHEET OF PAPER, AND ONE PIECE OF YARN FOR EACH STUDENT IN ALL THE COLORS FOUND IN THE PAINTING ONE. LAY THE PAPER ON THE FLOOR AND DIVIDE THE STUDENTS BY YARN COLOR TO HAVE THEM DROP THE YARN ONTO THE WHITE PAPER ONE AT A TIME.

AT HOME ACTIVITY: JACKSONPOLLOCK.ORG. SHOW THIS IN THE CLASSROOM BRIEFLY. AWESOME SITE!

Some questions to pose:

- Is there order to this painting?
- What nouns, verbs, adjectives, and, adverbs describe this painting?
- Do think there was any thought given to the placement of colors?
- Can you tell which colors were placed first on the canvas? (you can do the activity suggested below at this point)
- Pollock said, "on the floor, I am more at ease. I feel nearer, more a part of the painting, since this way I can walk around it, work from the four sides and literally be *in* the painting". What do think Pollock means by "in the painting"?
- Most Abstract Expressionist painters worked on canvases of very large dimensions. Why do you think so? What effect would these paintings have if they were small? (this is a good time to measure out the canvas and show the last slide)