



Anxiety in the Studio:

Atmosphere & the Creative Response

Ontario Art Educators Association Conference
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Presentation : E3



*art is the story
of my SOUL*

Michelle Richards-Clermont • **Island Grove** art studio

Does classroom environment affect student's creative output?

This experiential workshop is based upon my personal experiences with my social anxiety, & trauma, as well as observations from decades of facilitating workplace training, including 10+ years in the classroom.

To experience, then compare anxiety levels and creative output, participants will explore Abstract Expressionism in each session, results will be discussed regarding how changes in the room's language, music, atmosphere, and distractions affect group and individual anxiety levels and creative output.

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Hans Hofmann 1880–1966

Image in Blue 1950

Abstract Expressionism : art from the soul

Abstract expressionism was strongly inspired by the impressionist, cubist, and surrealist movements, their artwork influenced by Cezanne, Matisse, Picasso as well as Northern European artists escaping the Bolsheviks & later the Nazis.

With most of them landing in New York, this miasm of creativity backed by strife, loss, war, & chaos exploded onto the art scene. Their disregard for convention & desire for pure creative expression forever changed the world of art.

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Hofmann's rules about painting were grounded in the Marxist belief that an artist is shaped by their circumstances, and their creative response is held within the boundaries of those circumstances.



Arshile Gorky 1904–1948

The Liver is the Cock's Comb 1944

Gorky was a pivotal figure in the development of modern art in America. An immigrant from Armenia, Gorky processed avant-garde ideas and movements such as impressionism, cubism, and surrealism

Influences & Influencers : What? Who?

The turn of the 20th century brought massive change across the globe; the fall of the Russian empire, WWI, the crash of '29, the great depression, WWII & the Holocaust. This created the perfect storm that drove artists to abandon traditional techniques, themes, compositions, and materials to create art based on their personal experiences, circumstances, and emotions.. When artists like Hans Hofmann, Jules Olitski, Arshile Gorky, & others emigrated to the US after WWII, their ideas began to influence the New York art scene.

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Jackson Pollock 1912–1956

Active painting

A new era of art began with Pollock's drip paintings. "It doesn't make much difference how the paint is put on as long as something has been said," he once remarked. "Technique is just a means of arriving at a statement."

What is Abstract Expressionism : Defining the movement.

With inspiration from so many expressive sources, it is almost impossible to pinpoint a "style" to attach to the movement. Born from the need for freedom of expression, it was brought together through many different styles varying not only in technique, but also emotional response.

Often referred to as active painting, it brings to mind artists like Pollock with his massive pieces layered with colours laid down in drips to Rothko's broad colour fields, that striped art down to bare bones, open for interpretation.

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Jackson Pollock

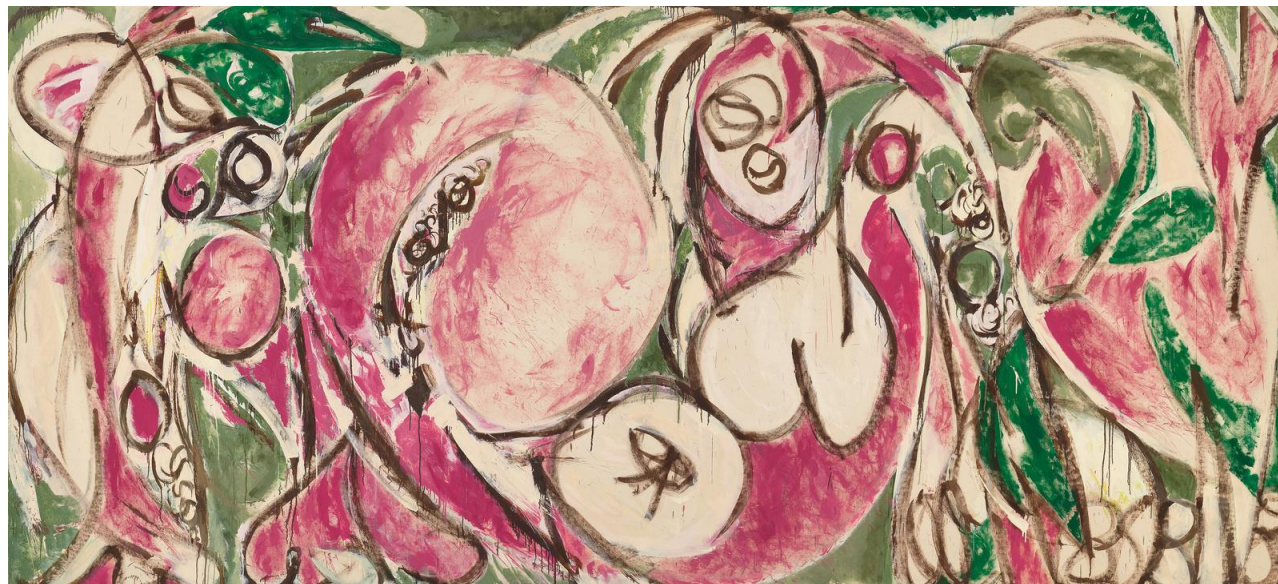
(1912-1956) is considered to be the biggest influence in the movement. "Number 5" sold for \$140 million in 2006 making it the world's most expensive painting.

Number 5
1948



Lee Krasner

(1908–1984) was a force of creativity as her work over 5 decades shows. Often being overlooked as an artist in her own right due to her constantly evolving style, changing from cubist to abstraction to whatever came to mind.



The Seasons
1957

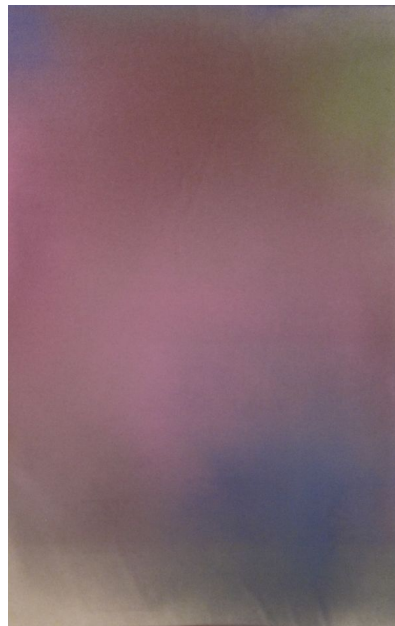
And so she knew more about art than anyone in New York at the time and a crusader for her husband Jackson Pollock. After his death, her work became alive, filled with energy, using nature as her muse.

“I like a canvas to breathe and be alive. Be alive is the point.”

Jules Olitski's
(1922–2007) career
spanned many
decades, his style
developing and
changing as he
worked his concepts.



Abstraction in the
Physical
1940–1949

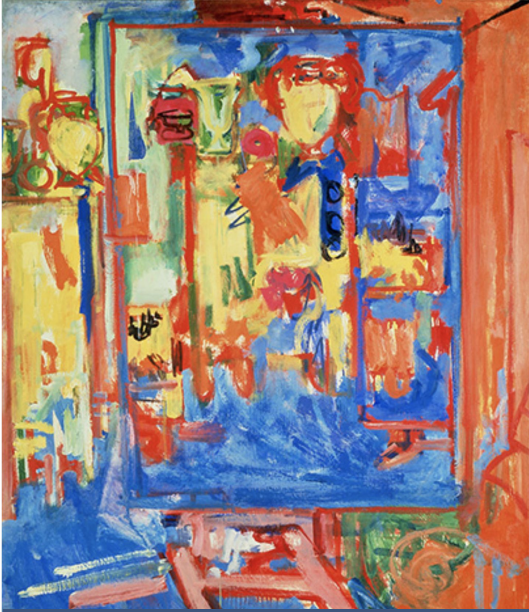


Mojo Working
Colour Field painting
1966

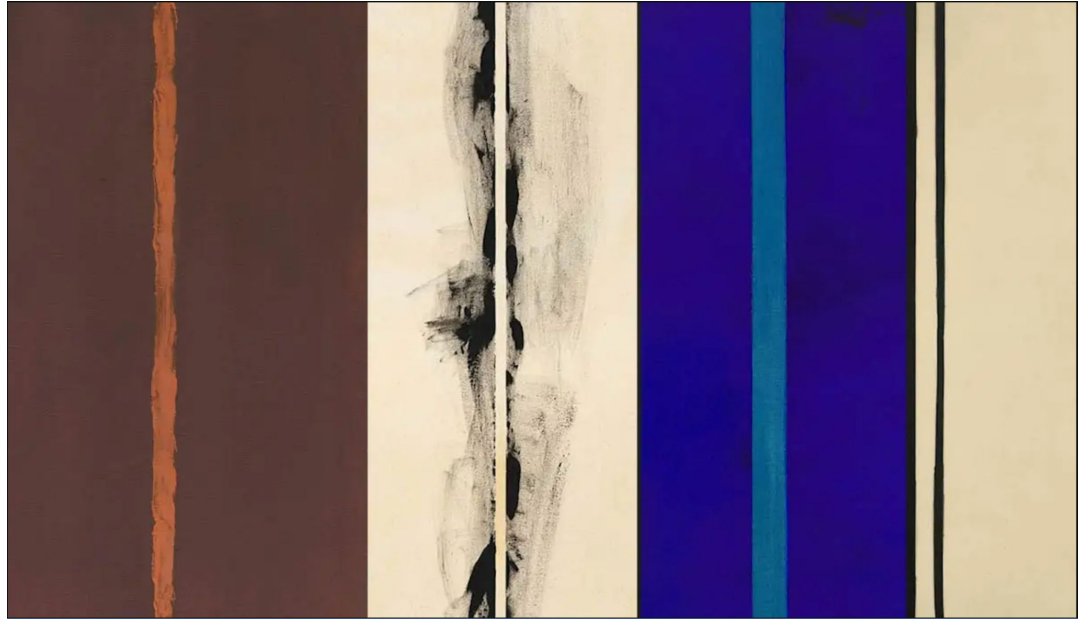


With Love and
Disregard - Zeus
2002

His influences touched
many artists including
Miro, & Rothko, and
many more.

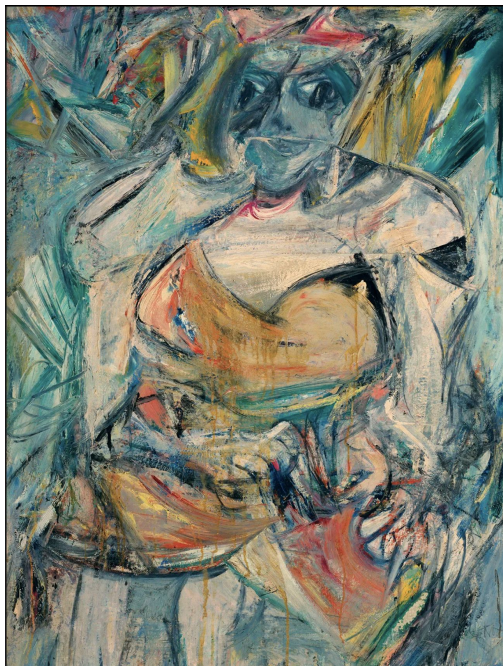


Hans Hofmann 1880-1986
Untitled (Interior Composition)
1935



Barnett Newman 1905-1970
Onement V
1945-49

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Willem de Kooning
1904-1997
Woman II
1952



Jack Tworok 1900-1982
Untitled
1952



Mark Rothko 1903-1970
Orange and Yellow
1956



What's your Abstract Expression : working within the movement.

Take a personal experience, interpret it into a piece of Abstract Expressionist artwork. One, multiple, singularly, group.

Materials

3x5" 24 pg. sketchbook

Graphite

Markers

Crayons

Gel Pens

Tape

Restrictions : None

Limitations : Only what you set

Prompts : Environmental Decay

AI & the future of traditional art

Let your creativity draw.



art
is the
story
of my
soul

mrc
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