

ART HISTORY - ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM



ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

- This was the first specifically American art movement to sweep the world
- It made New York the centre of the art world
- The style has many similarities to the work of Russian artists such as Kandinsky
- The journey of making these artworks was as important as the finished art itself
- This idea, started by Jackson Pollock, changed the potential for all art that followed
- The ideas and ways of working explored here redefined the way artists created work
- It led to the American art boom

'THE MODERN ARTIST IS WORKING WITH SPACE AND TIME, AND EXPRESSING HIS FEELINGS RATHER THAN ILLUSTRATING.'

Jackson Pollock

KEY ARTISTS AND IDEAS



Jackson Pollock



Helen Frankenthaler



Mark Rothko

JACKSON POLLOCK

Known for his technique of pouring or splashing liquid household paint onto a horizontal surface, enabling him to view and paint his canvases from all angles. It was also called 'action painting', since he used the force of his whole body to paint.

HELEN FRANKENTHALER

Began exhibiting her large-scale abstract expressionist paintings in galleries in the early 1950s. She was included in the 1964 Post-Painterly Abstraction exhibition that introduced Colour Field painting.

MARK ROTHKO

American painter of Lithuanian Jewish descent. Although Rothko himself refused to adhere to any art movement, he is generally identified as an abstract expressionist.

CONTEMPORARY ARTIST - KIM POPPE

- Self-taught photographer
- Explores seeing the extraordinary in the ordinary
- Wants her work to give people's minds spaces to rest
- Her photographs are created using slow shutter speeds and deliberate camera movement
- Much of her work is of water at twilight
- Heavily influenced by the colour field paintings of Mark Rothko

