

## **January Artist: Jackson Pollock**

### Slide 1: Photo of Pollock

Jackson Pollock was an American painter who was among the leading figures of twentieth century art and among the most influential artists of the art movement Abstract expressionism. He was born in Cody, Wyoming in 1912. As the youngest of 5 boys, he was encouraged to pursue art by his mother. His father was a farmer and later became a land surveyor so the family moved around the Western United States. At the age of 17, Pollock went to New York where he studied art at the Student's League with some prominent painters.

### Slide 2: Mural (1943)

Mural was Jackson Pollock's *breakthrough work* which marked a turning point in his career by not only enhancing his reputation but also giving a new dimension to his art. Painted on an 8-by 20-foot canvas, it was his first really big painting and one of the largest he would ever make.

### Slide 3: She Wolf (1943)

The She Wolf is one of Jackson's *most well-known works of the pre-Drip period*. It featured in his first solo exhibition in 1943 and the following year it was purchased by the Museum of Modern Art, making it the *first Pollock painting to enter a museum collection*.

### Slide 4: Full Fathom 5 (1947)

Jackson Pollock created his most famous paintings during the "drip period" which lasted from 1947 to 1950. Drip painting is a form of abstract art in which paint is dripped or poured onto the canvas, rather than being carefully applied. Most of his canvases were either set on the floor, or laid out against a wall, rather than being fixed to an easel. From there, Pollock used a style where he would allow the paint to drip from the paint can. Instead of using the traditional paint brush, he would add depth to his images using knives, trowels, or sticks. His style is sometimes called "action painting" because he walked around the canvas to add the paint from all sides and use his emotions to decide where to put the paint, how much and what colors to use.

### Slide 5: Number 5 (1948)

He continually pushed the boundaries of traditional art. Created on eight by four feet fiberboard, this is the most famous as well as the *most expensive painting* by Jackson Pollock. In November 2006, it created the world record for the highest price paid for a painting when it was sold for a price of \$140 million.

### Slide 6: Autumn Rhythm (Number 30) (1950)

1950 was a golden year for Jackson Pollock. It was a time where he was at his artistic best and had mastered the drip technique. Surprisingly he abandoned the drip style the following year. Autumn Rhythm, which was originally titled Number 30, is *one of his several masterpieces of the drip period*. The painting consists of chaotic black, white

and brown paint patterns and is known for having no focal point thus rendering every bit equally significant.

#### Slide 7: Lavendar Mist (1950)

Considered by art critics as one of Pollock's most important drip paintings, Lavender Mist *showcases the artist's genius in handling paint*. Physicists have studied Pollock's artworks for fractals, which naturally occur out of chaos. His later paintings, like Lavender Mist, were more chaotic than his earlier works and it was found that the more chaotic they became, the more closely they resembled naturally occurring fractals.

#### Slide 8: One, Number 31 (1950)

One: Number 31 was painted at a time when Pollock had mastered the drip technique for which he is most known. It was painted with the canvas lying on the floor as was the norm for Pollock's drip paintings and it is among the largest works ever created by the artist. Fans of Jackson often cite this work as proof of the artist's extraordinary skill and technical dexterity. It is considered by some as *Pollock's greatest drip painting*.

#### Slide 9: Convergence (1952)

With a size of 93.5 inches by 155 inches, Convergence is one of Pollock's *most ambitious paintings*. It is known for its visual brilliance and for evoking deep emotions within the viewer. Though Jackson's works remain difficult to decipher even by art experts, his paintings are considered manifestations of freedom of speech and expression. Convergence, which is a leading example in that regard, remains one of his most celebrated masterpieces.

#### Slide 10: Number 11, Blue Poles (1952)

It was in 1954 that No.11, was first given the title Blue Poles, a name by which it is famous today. He once said: "The painting has a life of its own. I try to let it come through."

#### Slide 11: The Deep (1953)

Mostly done in black and white with some specks of yellow and light blue, The Deep is one of Pollock's *most famous works after his glorious years (1947-1950)*. It is an important work of Abstract Expressionism.

#### Slide 12: Pollock at Work

Pollock's art was different than anything people had previously seen from the art world. He is considered one of the leaders of abstract expressionism. He died in a car crash in 1956. "Painting is self discovery. Every good artist paints what he is."

## Art Activity Resources

<https://www.deepspacesparkle.com/paint-like-pollock-art-project-for-grades-k-2/>

<http://useyourcolouredpencils.blogspot.com/2015/04/marble-paintings-in-style-of-jackson.html?m=1>

<https://thecraftyclassroom.com/crafts/famous-artist-crafts-for-kids/pollock-art-project-for-kids/>