XII. JACKSON POLLOCK (1912-1956) and ANDY WARHOL (1928-1987)

Jackson Pollock

Biographical and background information

2. Worked on Federal Art Project in 1930s, became familiar with the work of European surrealists and Picasso.
3. Leading artist in movement known as “Abstract Expressionism.”
4. In late 1940s developed abstract “drip” technique: canvas on floor, paint dripped or flung onto canvas. “Action” painting.
5. Use of non-traditional materials: unprimed canvas, commercial enamel paint.

Selected works

6. Earlier works: Regionalism, Abstract Expressionism
      i. Thomas Hart Benton, The Ballad of the Jealous Lover of Lone Green Valley, 1934 (oil and tempera on canvas, 41 ¼” x 52 1/4”, University of Kansas Art Museum)
   b. Stenographic Figure, 1942 (oil on canvas, 40” x 56”, MoMA)
   c. Moon Woman, 1942 (oil on canvas, 175” x 109”, Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice)
   d. The She-Wolf, 1943 (oil on canvas, 41 7/8” x 67”, MoMA)
7. “Drip” paintings
   a. Sounds in Grass: Shimmering Substance, 1946; oil on canvas, 30” x 24”, MoMA)
   b. Reflection of the Big Dipper, 1947; oil on canvas, 43 3/4” x 36 1/4”, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam)
   c. Full Fathom Five, 1947 (oil on canvas, with nails, tacks, coins, buttons, cigarettes, matches, etc, 50 7/8” x 30 1/8”, MoMA)
   d. Number 1A, 1948 (oil and enamel on unprimed canvas, 6’ 8” x 8’ 8”, MoMA)
   e. Autumn Rhythm, 1950 (oil on canvas, 105” x 207”, MMA)
   f. Blue Poles (No. 11), 1952 (enamel, aluminum paint, glass on canvas, 6’ 11” x 16’, Private Collection)
8. Comparisons
   a. Hans Namuth photograph of Pollock at work, 1950
   b. Cecil Beaton photograph of Vogue model posing in front of Autumn Rhythm, 1951

Andy Warhol
Biographical and background information

2. Leading exponent of “Pop Art,” made paintings and silkscreen prints and many in series, based on images from advertising, brand-name products such as Campbell’s soup cans, newspaper stories, and headlines.
3. Worked also as filmmaker, photographer, collector, author, and designer out of large New York studio called “The Factory.”
4. Silkscreen technique.

Selected works

5. Self Portrait, 1966 (silkscreen, each panel 22 ½” x 22 ½”, High Museum, Atlanta)
6. Dance Diagram (Tango), 1962 (synthetic polymer on canvas, 71 ¼” x 52”, Warhol Estate)
7. Do-it-yourself (Sailboats), 1962 (synthetic polymer paint on canvas, 6’ x 8’4”, Private collection, Berlin)
8. Large Campbell’s Tomato Soup Can, 1962 (acrylic on canvas, 20” x 16”)
9. 200 Soup Cans, 1962 (silkscreen, 72” x 100”, Powers Collection)
10. Marilyn Diptych, 1962 (silkscreen, each panel 6’ 10” x 4’9”, Tate Gallery, London)
11. Shot Sage Blue Monroe, 1964 (silkscreen, 36” x 36”, MoMA)
12. Jackie (The Week That Was), 1963: acrylic and silkscreen on canvas, 80” x 64”, Goetz Collection)
13. Five Deaths in Orange, 1963 (silkscreen, 44” x 23”, Private collection)
14. Lavender Disaster, 1964 (silkscreen, 108” x 82”, Rowan Collection, Pasadena)
15. Brillo Box, 1964 (silkscreen on wood, 17 1/8” x 14”, Warhol Estate)
16. Mao, 1973 (acrylic and silkscreen ink on paper, 12” x 10”, Lichtenstein collection)
17. Mao Wallpaper, 1974 (installation, Museum Galliera, Paris)
18. Comparison: Roy Lichtenstein, White Brushstroke, 1965; oil on canvas, 48” x 56”, Private collection)

Readings and web resources

Note: there are no readings for this unit in the Primary Source Reader

Pollock readings

Warhol readings

Web resources
Hans Namuth video of Jackson Pollock and QuickTime VR 360 degree view of Pollock’s East Hampton studio available online from Pollock/Warhol page of Art Humanities website.