

# Ab Ex 1

You picked 'em

# Abstract Expressionism

Abstract expressionism is the term applied to new forms of abstract art developed by American painters such as Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko and Willem de Kooning in the 1940s and 1950s. It is often characterized by gestural brush-strokes or mark-making, and the impression of spontaneity

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pe4xm2XwSEA&t=23s>

# Clyfford Still (1904-1980)

Clyfford Still was an American painter, and one of the leading figures in the first generation of Abstract Expressionists, who developed a new, powerful approach to painting in the years immediately following World War II.

Still was interested in conveying awe before the unknowable—the sublime—that many artists throughout history have sought to evoke. His work influenced many artists, including **Jackson Pollock**, **Mark Rothko**, and **Barnett Newman**, as well as other colour-field painters.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AFmEyoh8eWc>
- <https://clyffordstillmuseum.org/blog/what-is-clyfford-stills-work-about/>
- <https://clyffordstillmuseum.org/exhibitions/clyfford-still-the-works-on-paper/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmr6fSHoKi4> (Mark Bradford on Clyfford Still)

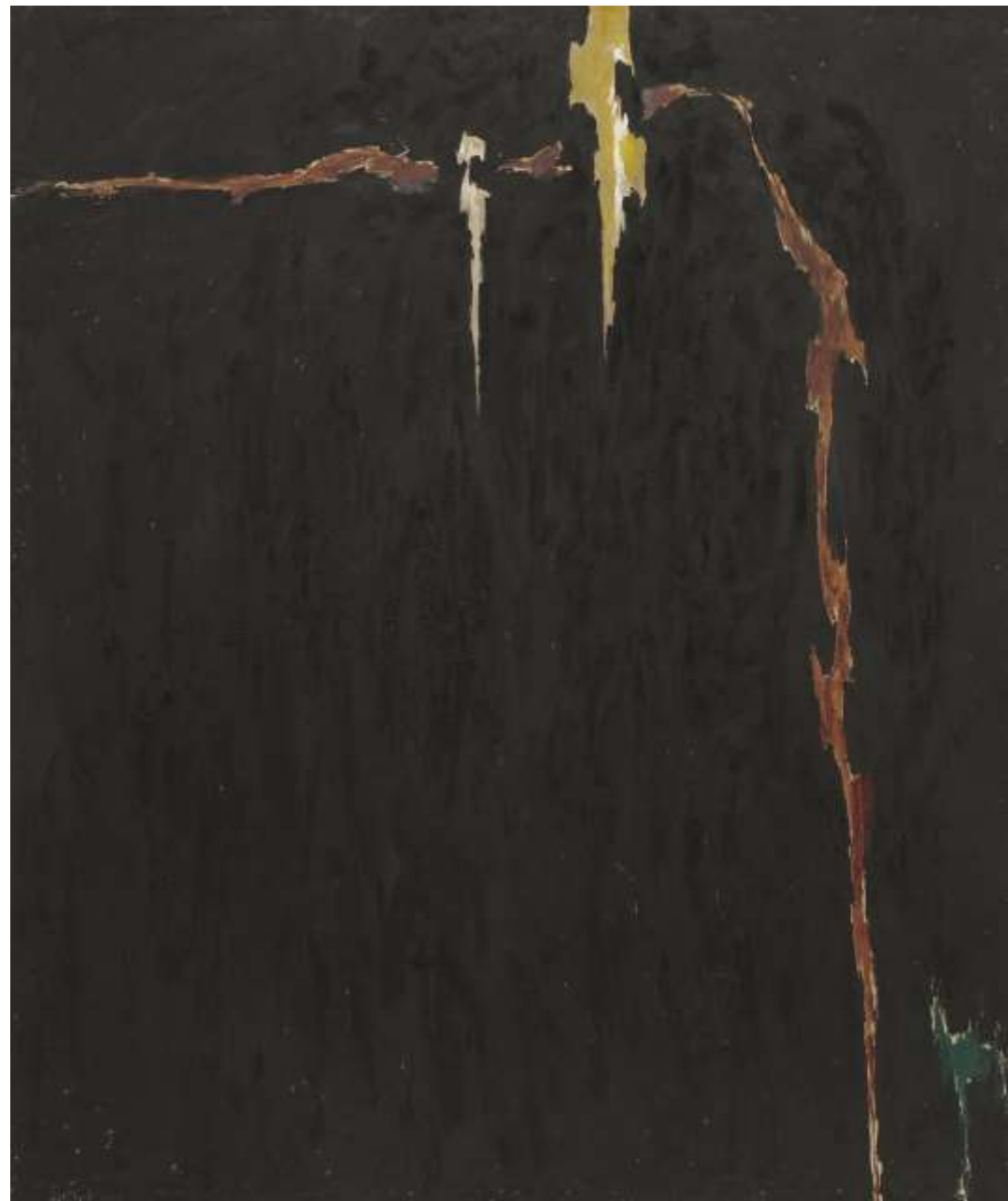




CLYFFORD STILL | MUSEUM

Clyfford Still, Private 1966 • Oil on canvas, 82.3 in x 77.25 in • Clyfford Still Museum © 2017 City and County of Denver/MCL, NY

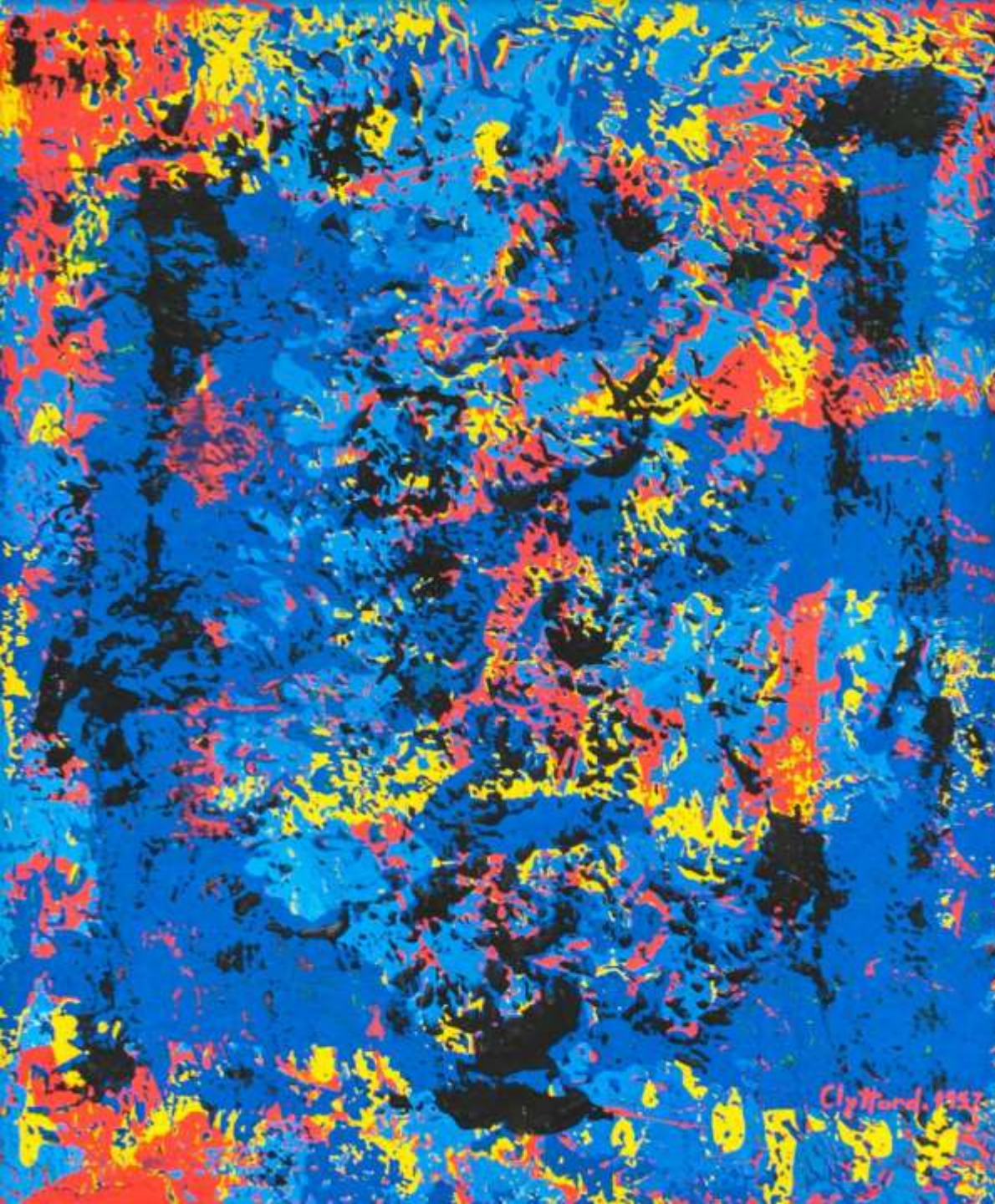
























# Barnett Newman (1905-1970)

Barnett Newman was an American artist. He is seen as one of the major figures in abstract expressionism and one of the foremost of the color field painters. His paintings are existential in tone and content, explicitly composed with the intention of communicating a sense of locality, presence, and contingency.

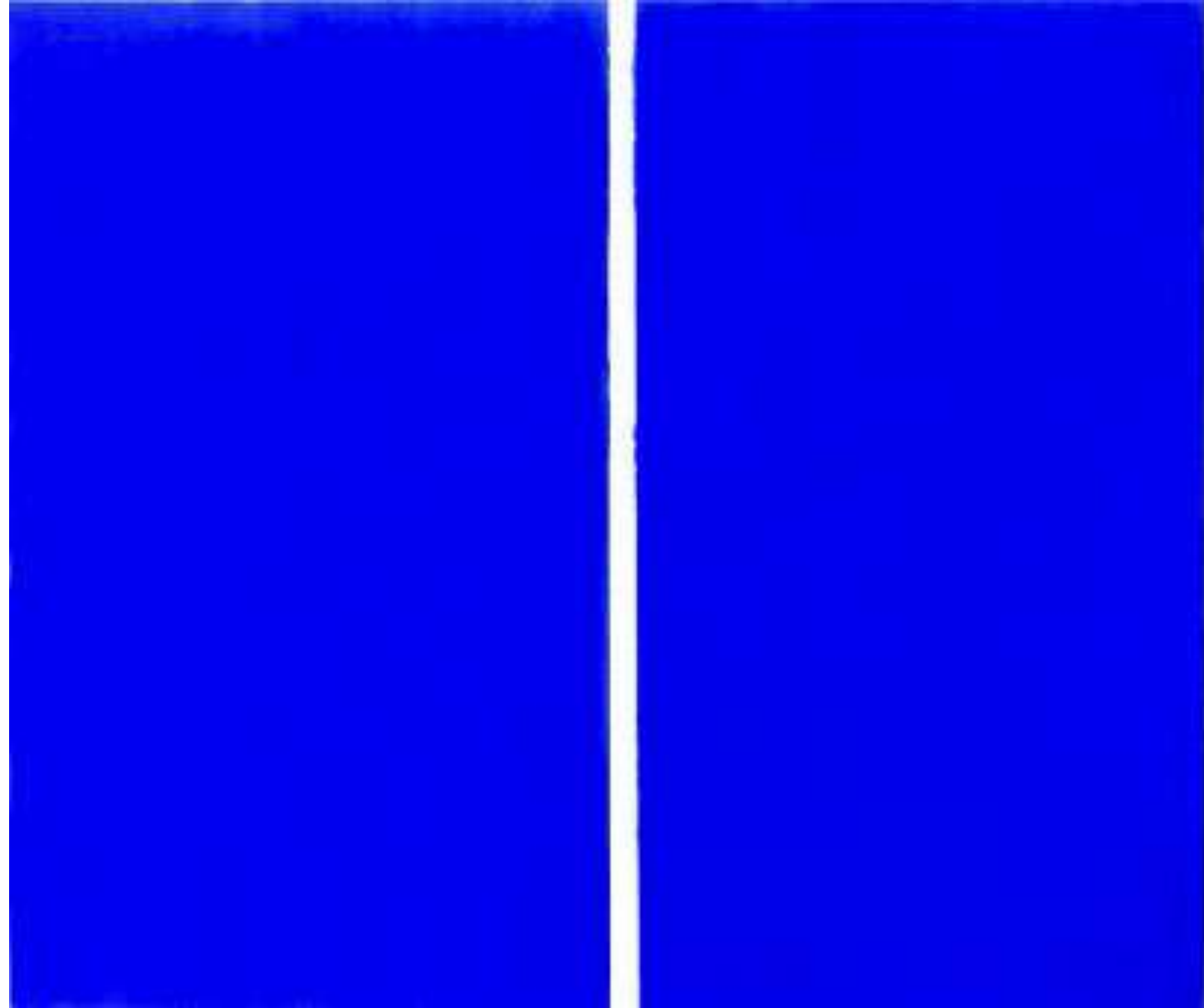
<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-1010/post-war-american-art/abex/v/barnett-newman-onement-i-1948> (1st)

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-1010/post-war-american-art/abex/v/moma-barnett-newman> (good)

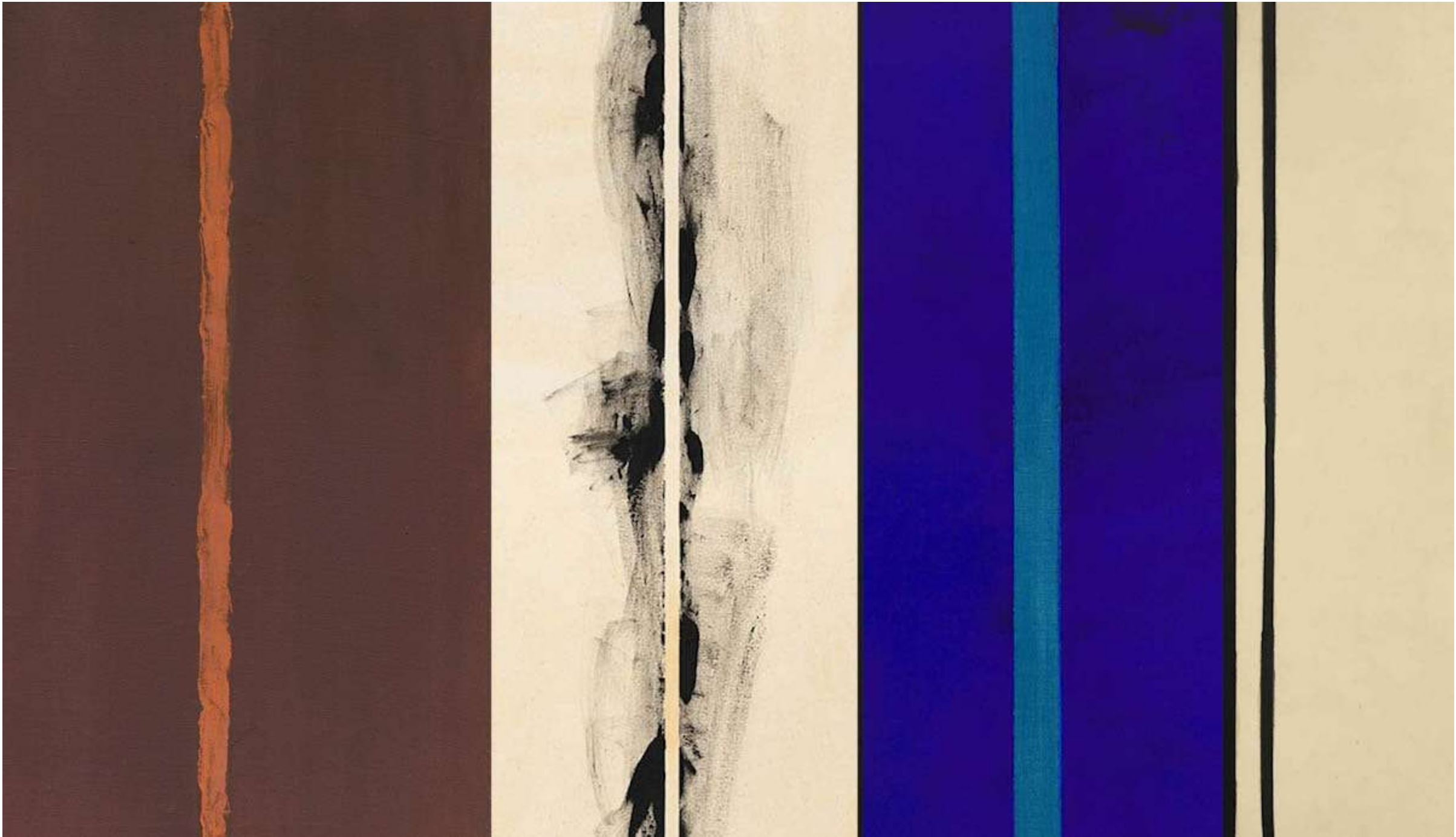
<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-1010/post-war-american-art/abex/v/moma-painting-technique-newman> (kahn academy--good)



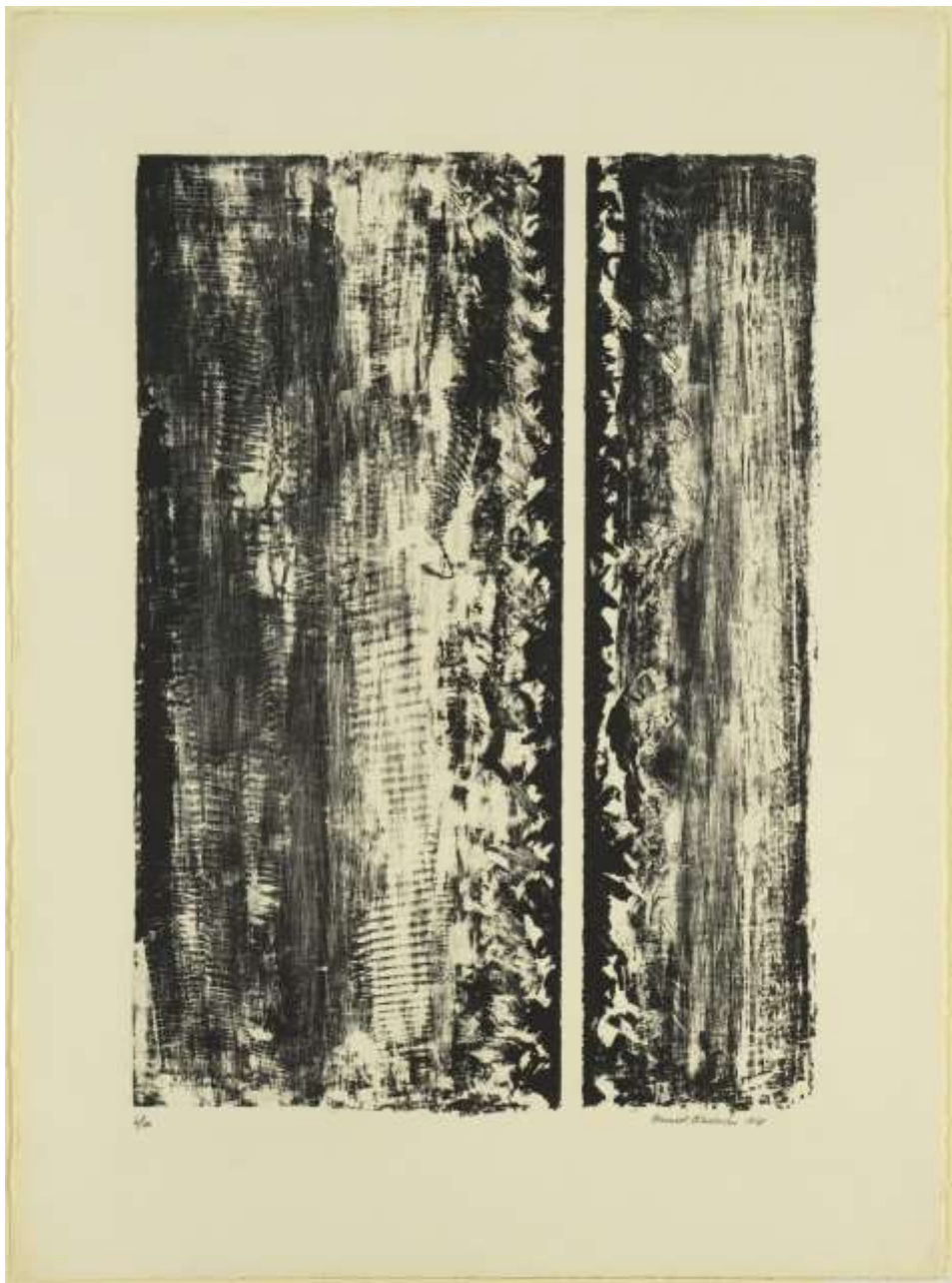












# The Women Abstract Expressionists

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7tlfBOjay0>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8yLH4viZaM> (13 mins)

# Helen Frankenthaler (1928-2011)



Helen Frankenthaler was an American abstract expressionist painter. She was a major contributor to the history of postwar American painting. Having exhibited her work for over six decades, she spanned several generations of abstract painters while continuing to produce vital and ever-changing new work.

She invented the "soak-stain" technique, in which she poured turpentine-thinned paint onto canvas, producing luminous color washes that appeared to merge with the canvas and deny any hint of three-dimensional illusionism. Her breakthrough gave rise to the movement promoted by the influential art critic [Clement Greenberg](#) as the "next big thing" in American art: [Color Field Painting](#), marked by airy compositions that celebrated the joys of pure color and gave an entirely new look and feel to the surface of the canvas. Later in her career, Frankenthaler turned her attention to other artistic media, most notably woodcuts, in which she achieved the quality of painting, in some cases replicating the effects of her soak-stain process.

Frankenthaler's work influenced [Morris Louis](#) and [Kenneth Noland](#), who recognized works like *Mountains and Sea* as a mode of abstract painting that moved beyond Pollock's textured, psychologically fraught canvases to compositions almost entirely based on color. On the basis of the soak-stain technique and the color wash, Frankenthaler, Louis, and Noland went on to develop [Color Field Painting](#). In such works, the entire space of the picture is conceived as a "field" that appears to spread beyond the edges of the canvas; figure and ground became one and the same, and three-dimensional illusionism is completely jettisoned.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-Q5eQm\\_mog](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-Q5eQm_mog) (Color field painting overview)

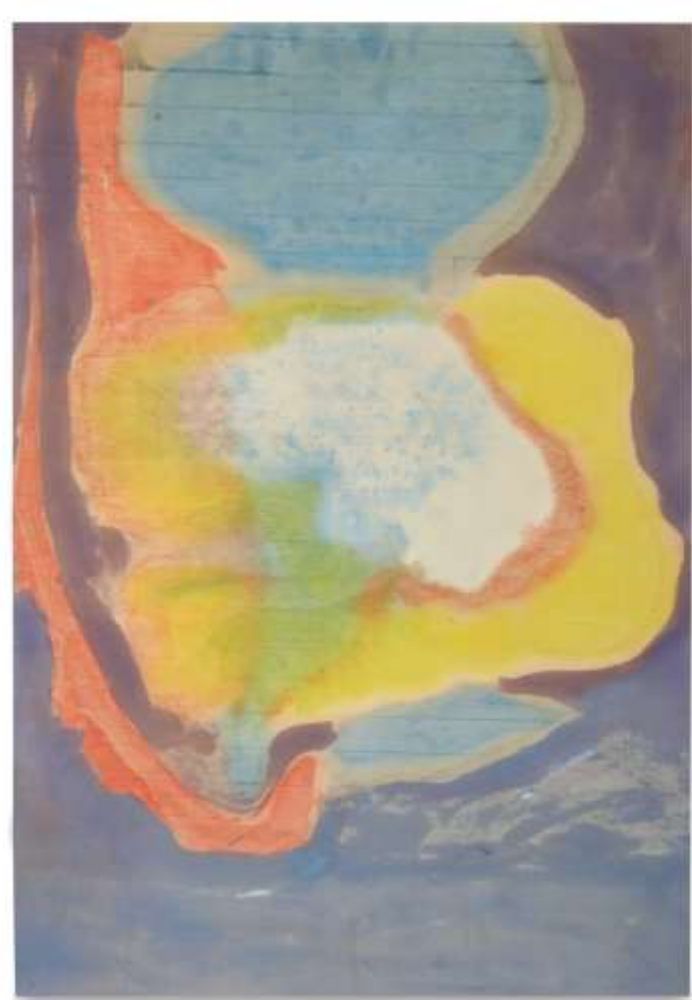
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOkrCOslfcU>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sm8nOyqUz\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sm8nOyqUz_g)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jPddPgcqMgg> (18 minutes)















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# Assignment Suggestions...

- Create a soak-stain painting
- Use “zips” in a painting (masking tape over a base coat)