



TAYLOE PIGGOTT GALLERY

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TAYLOE PIGGOTT GALLERY ANNOUNCES  
AN EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY ARTIST HANS HOFMANN

Exhibition Dates: 18 June – 25 July 2021

JACKSON, WYOMING – TAYLOE PIGGOTT GALLERY is pleased to present an exhibition of multimedia works on paper by Hans Hofmann, on view 18 June through 25 July. Hofmann's paintings are celebrated for their utilization of color relationships to create spatial effect as well as their compositional structure and theories of "push/pull," which have had a lasting impact on modern artists.

HANS HOFMANN was just one man, but his paintbrush arguably sparked a generation of American painters. In 1944, while he was creating these pulsing abstractions, the world was in uproar. In a tiny haven of lower Manhattan, a group of artists were making waves, abandoning representative painting for something entirely raw and new. Hans Hofmann was at the fore, giving free lectures in his broken English, forming what would become known as the Abstract Expressionist movement. With artists and intellectuals fleeing Europe in droves, Hofmann's school solidified New York as the center of the art universe in the years surrounding the Second World War. He may not be as well-known as, say, Jackson Pollock, but many who knew them might argue Jackson Pollock would not exist without the teachings of Hans Hofmann.

Hans Hofmann was born in Weissenburg in Bavaria, Germany in 1880. He began his education in art in Munich and later moved to Paris in 1904. While in Paris, Hofmann frequented the Café du Dome where he met the many artists, dealers, and intellectuals who gathered there. It was also during this time that Hofmann took drawing classes at the Académie de la Grande Chaumière and the Académie Colarossi, and was introduced to Matisse, Picasso, and Braque. While on a visit home to Germany in 1914, the outbreak of World War I prevented Hofmann from returning to Paris, so in 1915 he opened his own art school in Munich, which quickly garnered an international reputation of excellence. In 1930, Hofmann traveled to the United States, and from 1930 to 1932 he was invited to teach at the University of California, Berkeley, and at the Chouinard School of Art in Los Angeles.

In 1932, Hofmann moved to New York. He taught a drawing class at the Art Students League and in 1934—shortly after closing his school in Munich—he opened the Hans Hofmann School of Fine Arts in New York. In 1935, Hofmann's School additionally began to hold summer classes in Provincetown, Massachusetts. Hofmann became well known not only as an important artist of the time but also as an admired teacher—Helen Frankenthaler, Allan Kaprow, Lee Krasner, Louise Nevelson, Joan Mitchell, and Wolf Kahn were amongst his students. 1944 was a significant year for Hofmann as he was featured in four group exhibitions and notably had his first solo exhibition in New York at Peggy Guggenheim's renowned Art of This Century Gallery.

Hans Hofmann never shied away from challenge and instead embraced it head-on, a trait that gives his paintings an air of life and enthusiasm that is palpable even over half a century after the artist's death. When describing his process Hofmann said, "I do not want to avoid immersing myself in trouble—to be in a mess—to struggle out of it. I want to invent, to discover, to imagine, to speculate, to improvise—to seize the hazardous in order to be inspired. I want to experience the manifestation of the absolute—the manifestation of the unexpected in an extreme and unique relation. I know that only by following my creative instincts—in an act of creative destruction—will I be able to end it."

During his lifetime, Hofmann's work was the subject of exhibitions at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco (1931); the Art of This Century Gallery, New York, NY (1944); the Addison Gallery of American Art, Andover, Massachusetts (1948); Whitney Museum of American Art (1957); the XXX Venice Biennale (1960); and The Museum of Modern Art (1963).

Hofmann's work is in many permanent collections including The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY; National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY; Musée de Grenoble, Grenoble, France; National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Australia; Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Germany; Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv, Israel; and the Städtische Galerie in Lenbachhaus, Munich, Germany.

Hofmann died in 1966 in New York at the age of 85.



Hans Hofmann  
Untitled, 1944  
Ink and color crayon on paper  
24 x 19 inches



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## TAYLOE PIGGOTT GALLERY

Specializing in modern and contemporary art, Tayloe Piggott Gallery expresses a sharp appreciation for exceptional aesthetic vision. Based in Jackson, Wyoming, the gallery showcases sophisticated, unique artworks in a modern setting. Always interested in artistic discovery, the gallery expanded to create The Project Space: a collaborative place for the local and global community to share ideas, showcase work, host events, and expand artistic concepts. Mindful and thought-provoking, Tayloe Piggott Gallery aims to enrich cultural dialogue by bringing remarkable artists into an already flourishing arts community.

From first time buyers to seasoned collectors, our gallery assists a wide range of clients with the intricacies of collecting contemporary art. Our staff has the knowledge and expertise to facilitate art acquisitions, advise collection management, and curate the interiors of private spaces.

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