

JACKSON  
POLLOCK

- **Born-**28 January, 1912
- **Birthplace-**Cody, Wyoming
- **Died-** 11 August, 1956(automobile crash)
- **Best Known As-** The abstract painter who splattered his canvases.





Jackson Pollock spent his childhood in Arizona and California. Largely through the influence of his oldest brother, he became interested in art. Between 1925 and 1929 he attended Manual High School in Los Angeles where he learnt sculpture and painting.





In 1929 Pollock moved to New York to study under Thomas Hart Benton at the Art Students League. He was soon a Benton family intimate, taking hard-drinking Benton as a role model, artistically and behaviorally. Soon he began suffering from alcoholism and started undergoing psychiatric treatment in the late 1930s. He had a nervous breakdown in 1938 and was hospitalized.



In 1940 he enjoyed his first New York exhibition – a group show which also included works by Willem de Kooning and Lee Krasner. Here Pollock met Lee Krasner and they married in 1944.





Here, in his studio, after several years of psychotherapy, Pollock began to lay his canvas on the floor and pour, drip or splatter paint onto it in stages. The results were huge areas covered with complex and dynamic patterns.

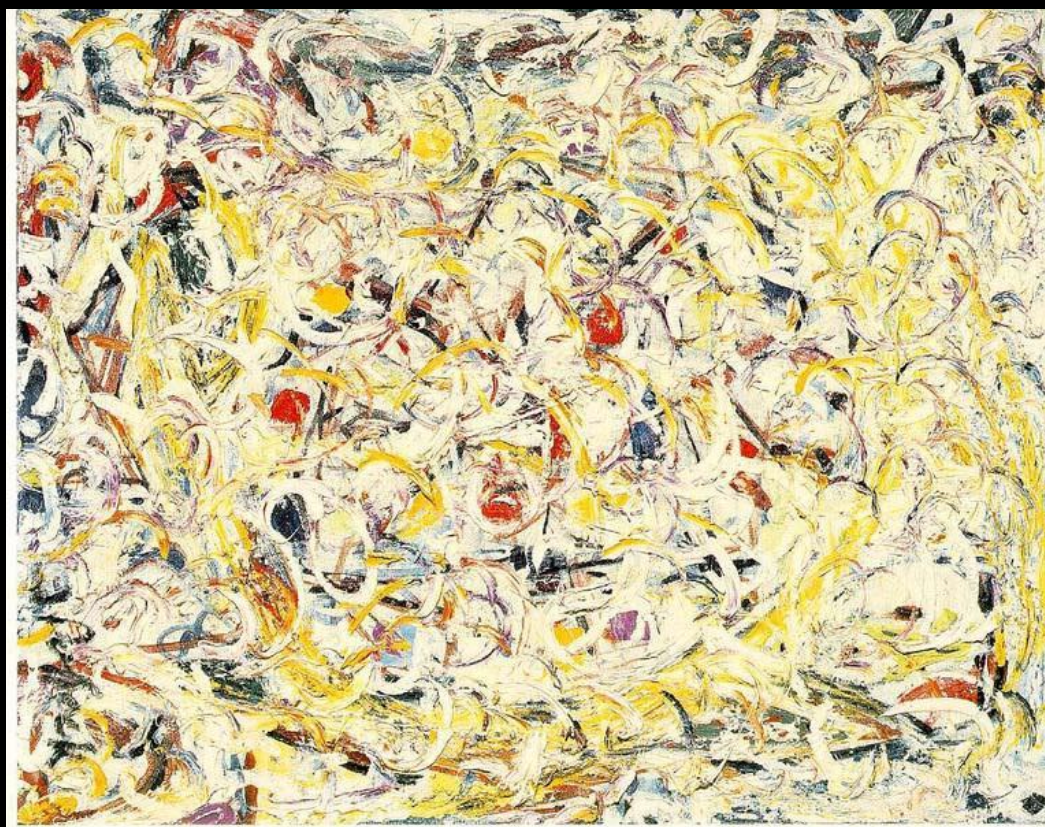






- The floor in Pollock's studio.

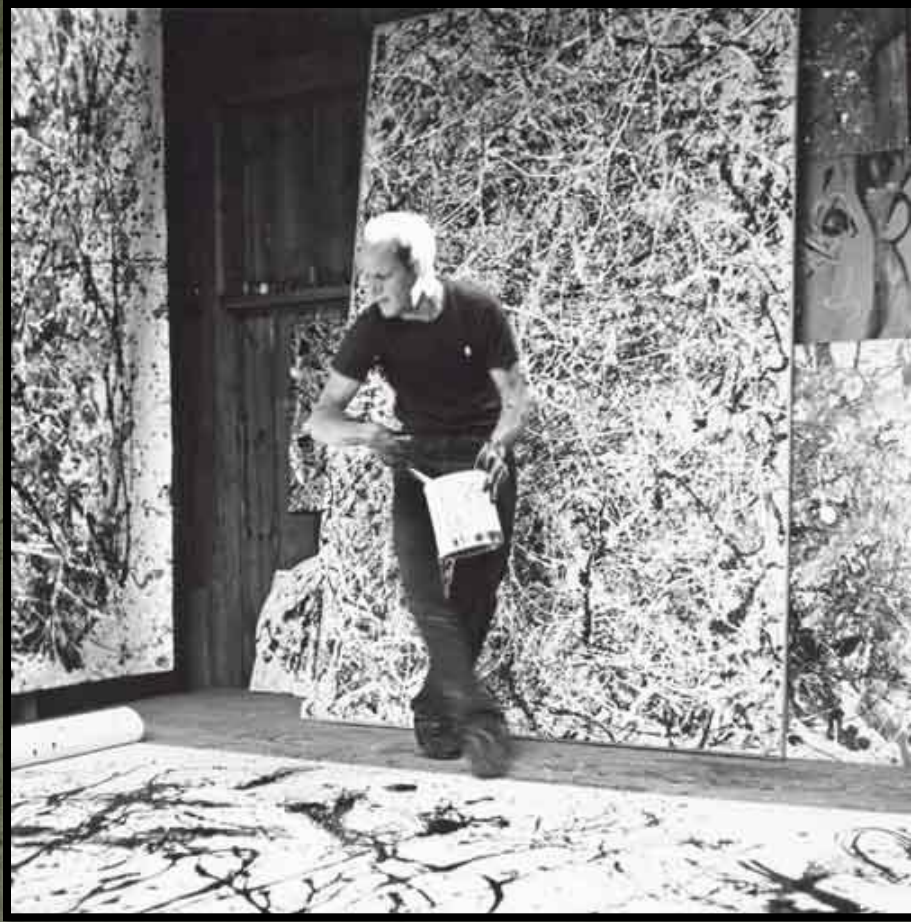












- So Pollock developed a new style of painting for which he became famous, later called as “unconscious imagery” or “action painting”. He worked from all sides of his painting, walking across or through it splattering the paint spontaneously.





“When I am **in** my painting, I’m not aware of what I’m doing. I have no fear about making changes, destroying the image, etc. because the painting has a life of its own. When I lose contact with the painting, the result is a mess. Otherwise there is a pure harmony”.

Jackson Pollock.













In the process of making paintings in this way, he moved away from representing figures. He also moved away from the use of only the hand and wrist, since he used his whole body to paint. In 1956 “Time” magazine called Pollock “Jack the Dripper” as a result of his unique painting style.







“On the floor I’m more at ease. I feel nearer, more part of the painting, since this way I can walk around it, work from the four sides and be in the painting”.

J. Pollock.







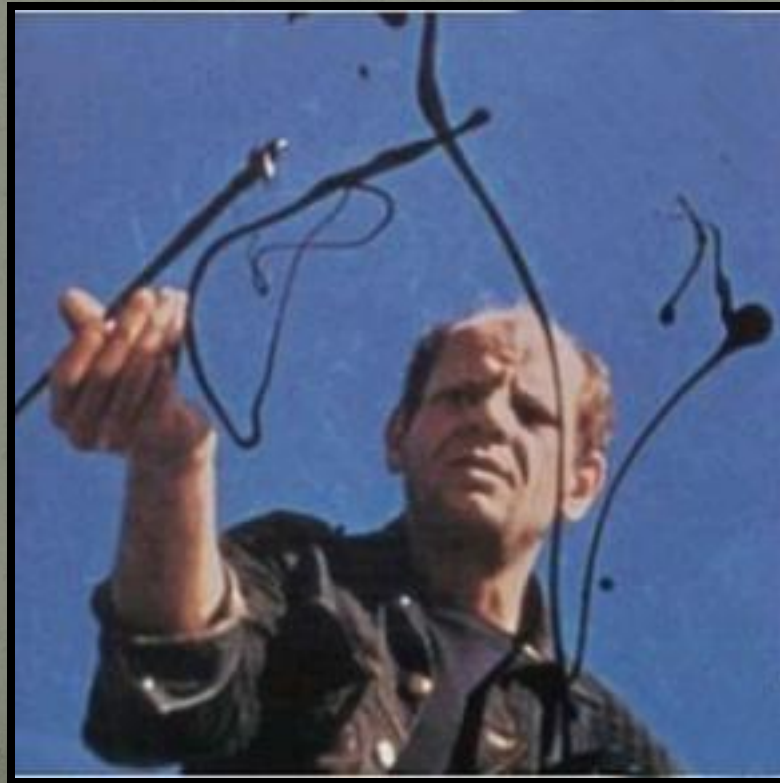
Pollock wanted to end the view's search for representational elements and started numbering his works instead of titling them.

“Numbers are neutral. They make people look at a picture for what it is – pure painting”.





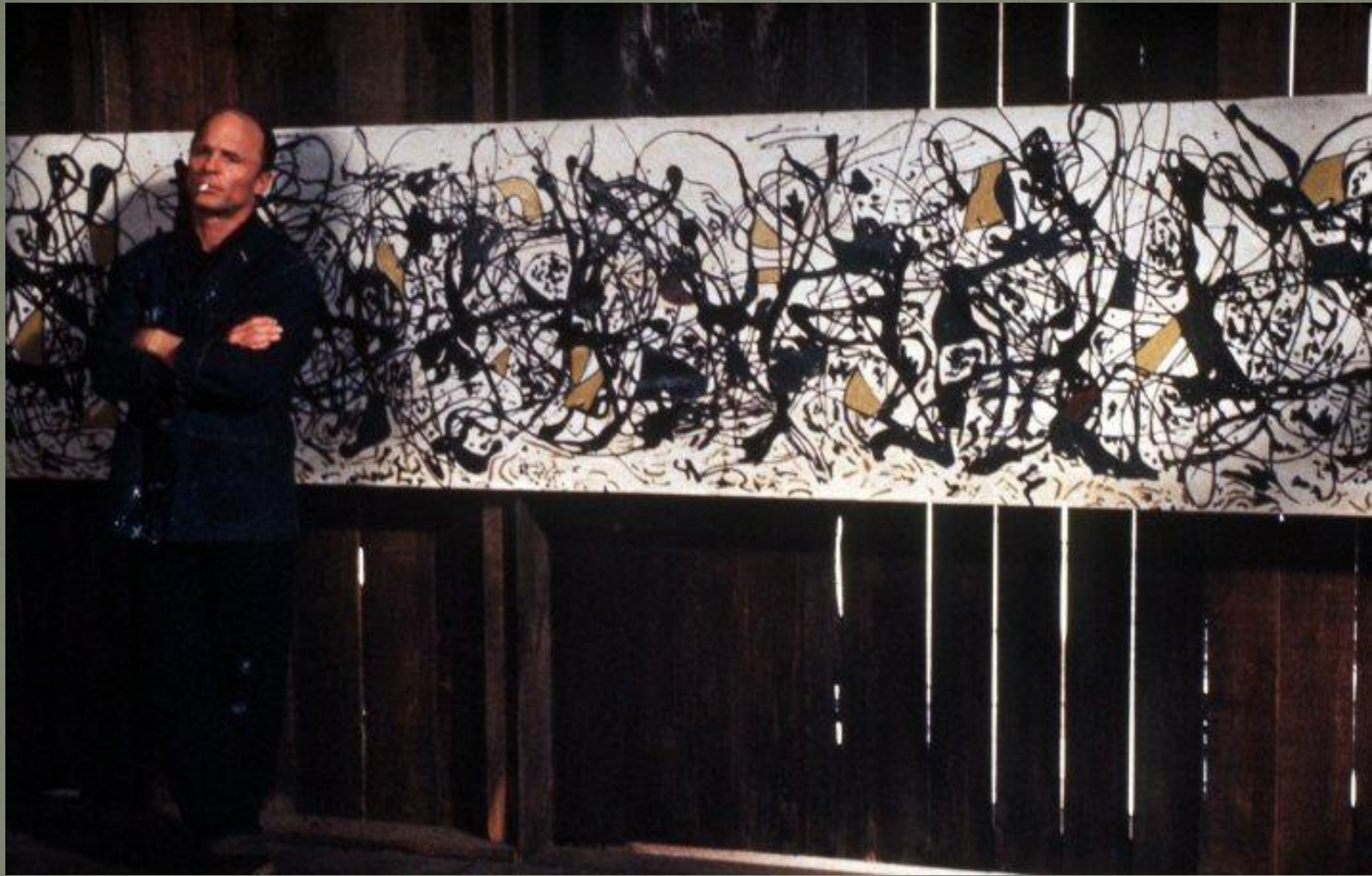
Pollock became known as a leading practitioner and a celebrity of Abstract Expressionism. When he died in a car crash at 44, he was one of the few American painters to be recognized during his lifetime and afterward as the peer of 20<sup>th</sup> century European masters of modern art.





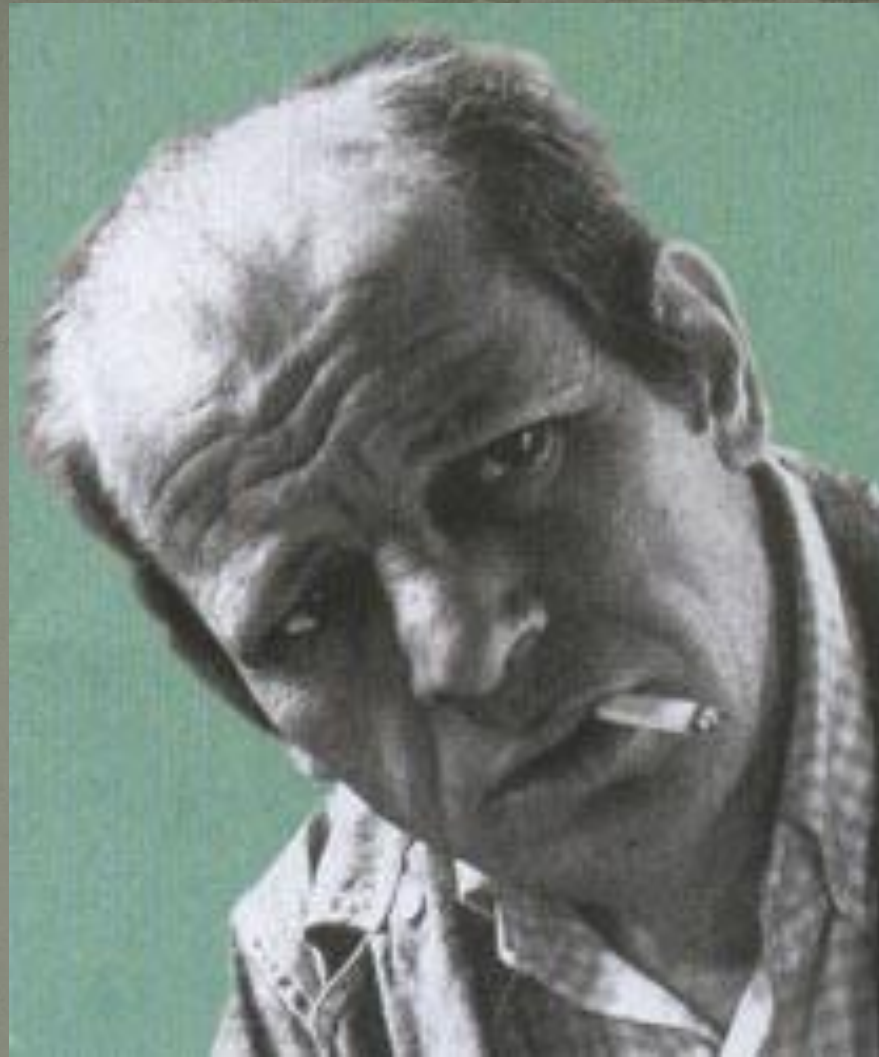






Actor Ed Harris directed and in starred in the 2000 movie about the painter.





In 2006 Pollock's No.5,1948 was sold for a record 140 million dollars.



**THE END**