



# Abstract Expressionism

*Barbara Hess*

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**Mood marks: The painterly gestures of personal feelings**

Hailed as the first American-born art movement to have a worldwide influence, **Abstract Expressionism** denotes the non-representational use of paint as a means of personal expression. It emerged in America in the 1940s, with lead protagonists including **Jackson Pollock, Philip Guston, Robert Motherwell, Mark Rothko, and Willem de Kooning.**

Abstract Expressionism spawned many different stylistic tendencies but two particularly prominent sub-categories: action painting, exemplified by de Kooning and Pollock, and color field painting, made most famous by Rothko. Throughout, Abstract Expressionists strove to convey **emotions and ideas through the making of marks**, through forms, textures, shades, and the particular quality of brushstrokes. The movement favored large-scale canvases, and embraced the role of accident or chance.

With featured works from 20 key Abstract Expressionist artists, this book introduces the movement which **shifted the center of art gravity from Paris to New York** and remains for many the golden moment of American art.

## About the Series:

Each book in TASCHEN's Basic Genre series features:

- a detailed illustrated introduction plus a timeline of the most important political, cultural and social events that took place during that period
- a selection of the most important works of the epoch, each of which is presented on a 2-page spread with a full-page image and with an interpretation of the respective work, plus a portrait and brief biography of the artist
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