

# LEE KRASNER

## ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONIST

PRESTON ITO

---

### *Biography*<sup>1</sup>

Lena Krasner was born as a Russian Jewish woman in New York in 1908. Her artworks explored different techniques in collages, oil paintings, charcoal drawings, and more. Krasner was one of the only female Abstract Expressionists in this time, making her work stand out in the art community. She changed her name sometime in the 1930's; Some speculate her name change was an attempt to make her gender ambiguous. Krasner married Jackson Pollock, a fellow Abstract Expressionist. When Pollock died in a tragic car accident, Krasner created a series of artworks to cope with his death. Krasner was best known for making her life the subject of her artworks.



Untitled, 1958

### *Critics*

*"Naturally she learned from him and absorbed the influences he himself had absorbed. But Lee Krasner is a strong woman. She sails bravely into the teeth of whatever gale is blowing, and the handsome paintings in this current show demonstrate her continued strength and vitality."* -Lawrence Campbell<sup>2</sup>

*"...so good you would not know it was painted by a woman."* -Hans Hofmann<sup>2</sup>

*"Krasner was mostly neglected or dismissed while Pollock was alive and was marginalised for nearly a decade after his death."* -John Yau<sup>2</sup>

## Artworks<sup>3</sup>



*Night Creatures*, 1965

*Black and White* was one of the first collage pieces that Krasner ever created. She used destroyed pieces from her past works to create *Black and White*. The figure on the right resembles Picasso's *Mirror Woman*. The process of creation from destruction shows the growth that Krasner went through during her artistic process.



*Black and White*, 1953



*Still Life on a Table*, 1938

*Still Life on a Table* was one of Krasner's earlier works she created when she was studying with Hans Hofmann, a famous abstractionist. Krasner was known for her still life paintings because of her ability to "balance out of spatial tensions by contrasting warm and cool colors."<sup>4</sup>

1. Hobbs, Robert Carleton, and Lee Krasner. *Lee Krasner* New York: Independent Curators International in association with Harry N. Abrams, 1999.

2. The Art Story. "Lee Krasner Biography, Life & Quotes." Accessed February 23, 2020.

3. "Lee Krasner | National Museum of Women in the Arts." Accessed February 22, 2020.

4. Levin, Gail. *Lee Krasner : a Biography* First edition. New York, NY: William Morrow, 2012.