

Jackson Pollock 1912-1956

- He was born in Cody, Wyoming in 1912.
- He was the youngest of five brothers. His family was poor and kept moving around trying to make a better life for themselves. Finally they settled in California.
- When he was 18yrs. old he moved to NY to study art.
- He spent hours in museums looking at American Indian artwork. He liked the technique of sand painting, where the artist poured the sand in patterns on the floor to create a piece and then destroyed it before starting a new one.
- He married Lee Kasner who was also a painter. They moved to Long Island where he used their barn as his studio.
- There he began doing his most famous paintings. He didn't use careful lines, brushes, and an easel like a typical painter. He spread his large canvas on the floor and used a drip technique. He used large sticks to drip, splatter, or fling the paint and sometimes poured the paint directly from the can. He called his paintings energy and motion. He used his entire body to paint in all directions, moving around the canvas almost like a dance. This was called action painting and he was called "action Jackson." This way he felt like he was in the painting. Making the artwork was more important to him than the image.