



# Women of Abstract Expressionism

By Irving Sandler

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**Women of Abstract Expressionism** By Irving Sandler

**A long-awaited survey of female Abstract Expressionist artists revealing the richness and lasting influence of their work**

The artists Jay DeFeo, Helen Frankenthaler, Grace Hartigan, Elaine de Kooning, Lee Krasner, Joan Mitchell, and many other women played major roles in the development of Abstract Expressionism, which flourished in New York and San Francisco in the 1940s and 1950s and has been recognized as the first fully American modern art movement. Though the contributions of these women were central to American art of the twentieth century, their work has not received the same critical attention as that of their male counterparts.

*Women of Abstract Expressionism* is a long-overdue survey. Lavishly illustrated with full-color plates emphasizing the expressive freedom of direct gesture and process at the core of the movement, this book features biographies of more than forty artists, offering insight into their lives and work. Essays by noted scholars explore the techniques, concerns, and legacies of women in Abstract Expressionism, shedding light on their unique experiences. This groundbreaking book reveals the richness of the careers of these important artists and offers keen new reflections on their work and the movement as a whole.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

“Dazzling.”—Margaret Graham, *Brooklyn Rail*  
(Margaret Graham *Brooklyn Rail*)

“Despite the advantages of access the internet provides, it’s only in a carefully prepared catalogue like *Women of Abstract Expressionism* that many of us will have the opportunity to view these works in an accurate representation. A book like this helps filter out the clutter of too much information, train the eye, and expand the reader’s appreciation for these works.”—Matthew Snider, *PopMatters*  
(Matthew Snider *PopMatters*)

“A fine catalog that documents the artists exhibited and adds the names and biographies of many others who aren’t, setting the stage for sequels.”—Holland Cotter, *New York Times*  
(Holland Cotter *New York Times*)

#### About the Author

**Joan Marter** is Board of Governors Professor of Art History at Rutgers University and editor of the *Woman’s Art Journal*. **Gwen F. Chanzit** is curator of modern art and the Herbert Bayer Collection and Archive at the Denver Art Museum and director of museum studies in art history at the University of Denver. **Robert Hobbs** is Rhoda Thalhimer Endowed Chair at Virginia Commonwealth University and visiting professor at Yale University. **Ellen G. Landau** is Andrew W. Mellon Professor Emerita of the Humanities at Case Western Reserve University. **Susan Landauer**, formerly chief curator at the San Jose Museum of Art, is an independent art historian and curator. **Irving Sandler** is a distinguished independent scholar, curator, and critic.

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