**Jackson Pollock – Lucifer and Mural, 1947 and 1943**

Jackson Pollock was born in **Wyoming in 1912**, and he had five older brothers (Picture of him as a child). Have any of you been to Wyoming or on a ranch? His family moved all over the western states from one ranch to the next, but no matter how much work needed to be done, his mother always encouraged her sons to do art. Not only Jackson, but three of his older brothers also became artists.

When he was 18, he followed his older brother to **New York to study art** (picture of adult) He was often frustrated with getting his drawings to look the way he wanted them to. Do you ever feel that way too when you are drawing something? One day, he joined the workshop of a Mexican muralist where they were trying out new types of paint and ways of painting- using **car paint** rather than artists paint and **pouring or spraying** them onto their canvases.

He thought these ideas might help him create his own art without having to draw perfectly. And Jackson started to develop **his own style**:

* He spread **canvas on the ground** and then
* **splashed, dripped, and poured color** using sticks and even kitchen tools
* straight from cans of **house paint**,
* walking around it, **working from all sides**, and being in the painting.

He said that Modern Artists **paint their feelings instead of the world** outside. Pollock wanted people to feel and see the energy he felt while painting- not recognize objects. This approach is the opposite of many artists who want people to recognize things in their paintings.

Because he moved around so much and used so much energy while painting, his style became known as **Action Painting**.

In October 1945, Pollock married another painter [Lee Krasner](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee_Krasner) and they moved out to Long Island.

How many of you have been to the Guggenheim Museum? It was built by and named for the Guggenheim family and Peggy Guggenheim offered Pollock a gallery contract and show in 1943. This helped him to become more well known.

**By 1949 Jackson was famous**. Some said that he was the **greatest living painter** in the United States, but others hated his paintings and thought they were just a **mess**- do any of you think that you could do just as good a job?. In 1956, [*Time*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_(magazine)) magazine gave him a nickname "**Jack the Dripper,"** due to his painting style. Although important people all over the world loved to talk and write about his work, hardly anyone bought his work until years later.

He died in a car accident when he was only 44 years old.

This picture is typical of Pollack´s Abstract Expressionism style- he painted it as a commission for Peggy Guggenheim´s NYC home in 1943. He named it **Mural**, because he liked to use neutral titles for his pictures- many were simply named numbers. He thought that a neutral name would make people look at a picture for what it really is.

**Do you think this is a good title? What might you name this picture? What colors do you see?** **How does it make you feel? Do you have a sense of movement or rhythm when you look at it? Light? Energy? Depth? At one point he said that he was inspired by a vision of buffalo and cattle stampeding- do you get this feeling from the picture?**

This one is called Lucifer and is from 1947- a few years later and includes bits of gravel and sand in the base coat to give it texture. Do you know what Lucifer means? Why do you think he called it that? Does it give you a different feeling than Mural? What differences can you identify?

So now we´ll use some of Pollock´s signature style to make our own mural:

* **Household paint**
* **Canvas spread out on the ground**
* **Walking all around it**
* **Dripping and pouring to show our emotions**

After it hangs up for a while, you can cut it up and each take a piece home.