

Jackson Pollock's Apartment

Formerly: 76 W Houston: Jackson Pollock

Final Sept 2014

Today 76 West Houston is a condominium, but the famous street has have witnessed one of the most well known and controversial artists of the twentieth century. Jackson Pollock moved here with one of his brothers in 1934. The apartment they moved into above a lumber yard was unheated and ran only cold water. At the time, Pollock made his living as a janitor at a nearby school and as "Stone Cutter" for the Emergency Relief Bureau, an organization created by the Hoover administration to get people back to work. More lofty sounding than it was, his job as a stone cutter was in fact to clean and maintain the statues in public parks – one of those being the statue of Peter Cooper at Cooper Square.

He stayed in this apartment for only about a year, living in different homes throughout the 1930s and early 1940s while he studied art and continued painting. Pollock eventually worked for the Works Progress Administration's Federal Art Project, which supported artists such Mark Rothko, José Clemente Orozco, and Willem de Kooning.

In the early 1940s, Peggy Guggenheim took notice of Pollock's art and commissioned him to make an 8-foot tall by 20-foot long mural for the entryway of her townhouse. This led to Guggenheim's patronage of Pollock, which allowed him to paint full time. Then a 1950 spread in Life Magazine catapulted Pollock to fame. Although he was securely established as an artist, the sudden fame caused critics to question Pollock's authenticity to the point that he himself started to have doubts. Always a troubled man and heavy drinker, Pollock's marriage unraveled in 1956, and that August he died in a one-car alcohol-fueled accident, killing himself and a fellow passenger.

Pollock explained his art by saying it represented his "inside world." He said if viewers wanted to see real objects, they could look at them; his art, on the other hand, was motion and energy. His works often have a sense of immediacy, as though they are a direct translation from thought or feeling to paint without the burden of perfection—an appropriate interpretation for art painted in a city that constantly moves with energy.

Story Outline

- Intro
 - Home of the famous Jackson Pollock
 - Moved in unheated, cold water, above a lumberyard with one of his brothers in 1934
 - worked as a janitor for a school and stone cutter for the emergency relief bureau
 - one of his jobs was to clean statues, including the peter cooper statue at cooper union
- his art
 - In NYC, took art courses and showed art

- eventually earned a solo show run by Peggy Guggenheim in 1943, allowed him to paint full time
- think about
 - his environment influenced him, Hoover villages (hodge podge, shacks along Houston)
 - concept of immediacy, direct translation from thought to paint
 - how the environment changed, from Hooverville/unheated apt to brutalist towers, all that's left is the art(?) and the story

Notes

From Sascha's Talking Points

- in 1934 Jackson Pollock moved back to New York and moved into an unheated lumber yard
- works as janitor for a school and stone cutter for the Emergency Relief Bureau, cleaning the statues in the park, including Peter Cooper statue
- think about: Houston street in 1934 and Pollock's drip paintings

Ryan's original

In 1934, Pollock moved into a small, unheated apartment above a lumberyard with his older brother Charles. This lumberyard stood at 76 West Houston approximately where now the Silver Towers shoot into the sky.

In between odd jobs here and there, Jackson exhibited many of his works throughout SoHo and New York. One of these odd jobs was for the city's Emergency Relief Bureau, where Pollock, hired as stone cutter, was in charge of cleaning and restoring public monuments and sculptures for a mere \$1.75 an hour. One of these statues was the Peter Cooper statue in front of Cooper Union.

He eventually earned himself a solo show run by Peggy Guggenheim in 1943, which allowed him to paint full time. In 1945, after Guggenheim renewed the contract and doubled his stipend, he and Kasner left New York to escape the “wear and tear” of the city.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jackson_pollock

- abstract expressionist movement
- drip painting
- reclusive
- volatile
- alcoholism
- 1945 married artist Lee Krasner who became an important influence
- died at 44 (1956) alcohol-related single-car accident

<http://www.cityrealty.com/nyc/soho-noho/soho-25-25-west-houston-street/27081>

today it's a condominium

<http://www.moma.org/interactives/exhibitions/1998/pollock/website100/chronology.html>

- 1912 born Paul Jackson Pollock in WY.
- started drinking heavily as a teen
- eventually leaves high school in riverside CA
- 1928 family moved to LA later that year and he enrolled in an arts high school and is introduced to abstract art and the writings of mystical thinkers
- 1929 - expelled for disciplinary problems; reinstated in the fall
- lots of high school problems
- 9/1930 moves to NYC to follow his older brothers
- 1930 begins doing art and taking art classes
- 1931 - gets married
- 1934 - moves into a “small cold-water flat above a lumberyard at 76 West Houston St.”
- 1935 - paints a mural in the style of Orozco at his studio at 76 W houston
- 9/1935 - moves back to an apt on 46 E 8th St. vacated by his brother
- lots more... very long so i moved onto other references

<http://www.biography.com/people/jackson-pollock-9443818>

<http://learningenglish.voanews.com/content/a-23-2005-10-15-voa2-83123777/123976.html>