



# THE ART NEWSPAPER

## Royal Academy show expands Abstract Expressionist canon

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Gabriella Angeleti



PH-950 (1950), from the Clyfford Still Museum in Denver. Photo: Ben Blackwell, courtesy of the Royal Academy of Arts

The Royal Academy of Arts (RA) has assembled the first major exhibition of Abstract Expressionism in the UK in almost six decades, comprising more than 150 paintings, sculptures and photographs. Simply titled Abstract Expressionism, the show includes works by the biggest names—Jackson Pollock, Willem de Kooning, Mark Rothko—as well as lesser-known contemporaries such as Sam Francis and Minor White.

It aims to revise some common ideas about the movement and to re-evaluate labels that have divided action painters like Pollock from colour-field painters like Rothko by showing how their ambitions intersected. With works by Francis and White, the show also quashes the view that the movement was confined to New York City.

“Developments on the West Coast have been unduly neglected because they complicated the overall geographical narrative—which, I think, is always a good thing,” says the co-curator, David Anfam. Nine paintings by Clyfford Still, who spent much of his time in California, have been borrowed for the first time from the Clyfford Still Museum in Denver, where Anfam is a curator.

The lead sponsor of the RA show is BNP Paribas.

• *Abstract Expressionism, Royal Academy, London, 24 September-2 January 2017*

# VENUE DETAILS

Royal Academy of Arts  
Burlington House, Piccadilly  
London W1J 0BD  
United Kingdom  
[www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk)

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