

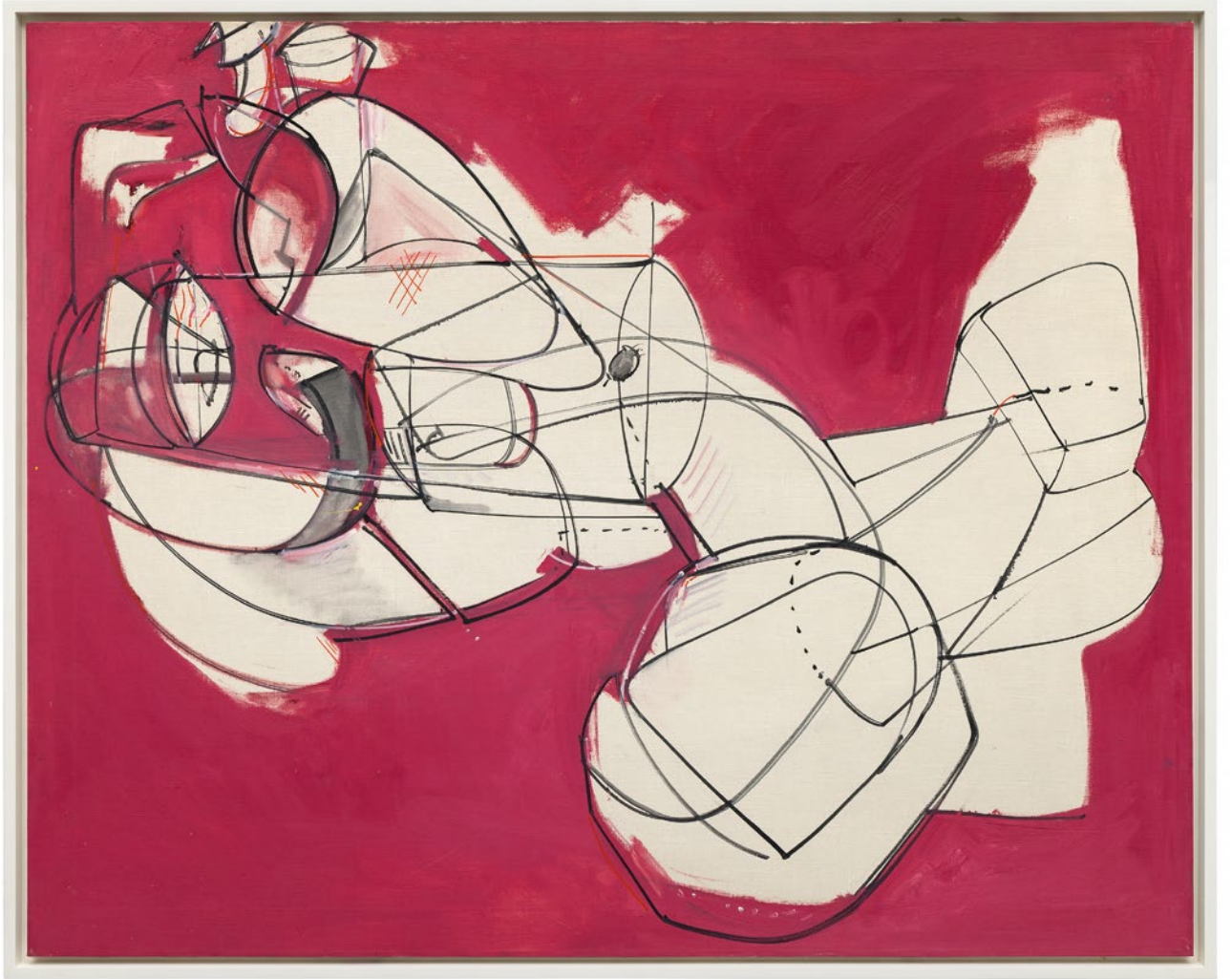
# HANS HOFMANN





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# HANS HOFMANN (1880-1966)

*Astral Image No. 1*

1947

oil on canvas

48 x 60 in. (121.9 x 152.4 cm)



WATCH VIDEO

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## PROVENANCE

Andre Emmerich Gallery, New York, New York  
Estate of Hans Hofmann  
Ameringer & Yohe Fine Art, New York, New York  
Private Collection, New Jersey

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## EXHIBITION

New York, New York, Betty Parsons Gallery, *Hans Hofmann: Recent Works*, March 24 – April 12, 1947  
New York, New York, American Academy of Arts and Letters, *Hans Hofmann*, 1971  
Toronto, Canada, David Mirvish Gallery, *Hans Hofmann: The Thirties through the Sixties*, April 15 – May 23, 1972  
New York, New York, Andre Emmerich Gallery, *Hans Hofmann, The years 1947-1952*, April 3 - 28, 1976  
New York, New York, Ameringer Yohe, *Hans Hofmann: The Unabashed Unconscious; Reflections on Hofmann and Surrealism*, March 30 – April 29, 2006

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## LITERATURE

Cynthia Goodman, *Hofmann: Abbeville Modern Masters*, New York, 1986, pl. 45, p. 56 (illustrated in black and white)  
Jed Perl, *Hans Hofmann, The Unabashed Unconscious: Reflections on Hofmann and Surrealism*, New York, 2006, p. 37 (illustrated in color)  
Suzi Villiger, *Hans Hofmann: catalogue raisonne of paintings, volume II*, Surrey, 2014, HH cat. no. 1135-1947, p. 382 (illustrated in color)

# — IMPORTANT FACTS

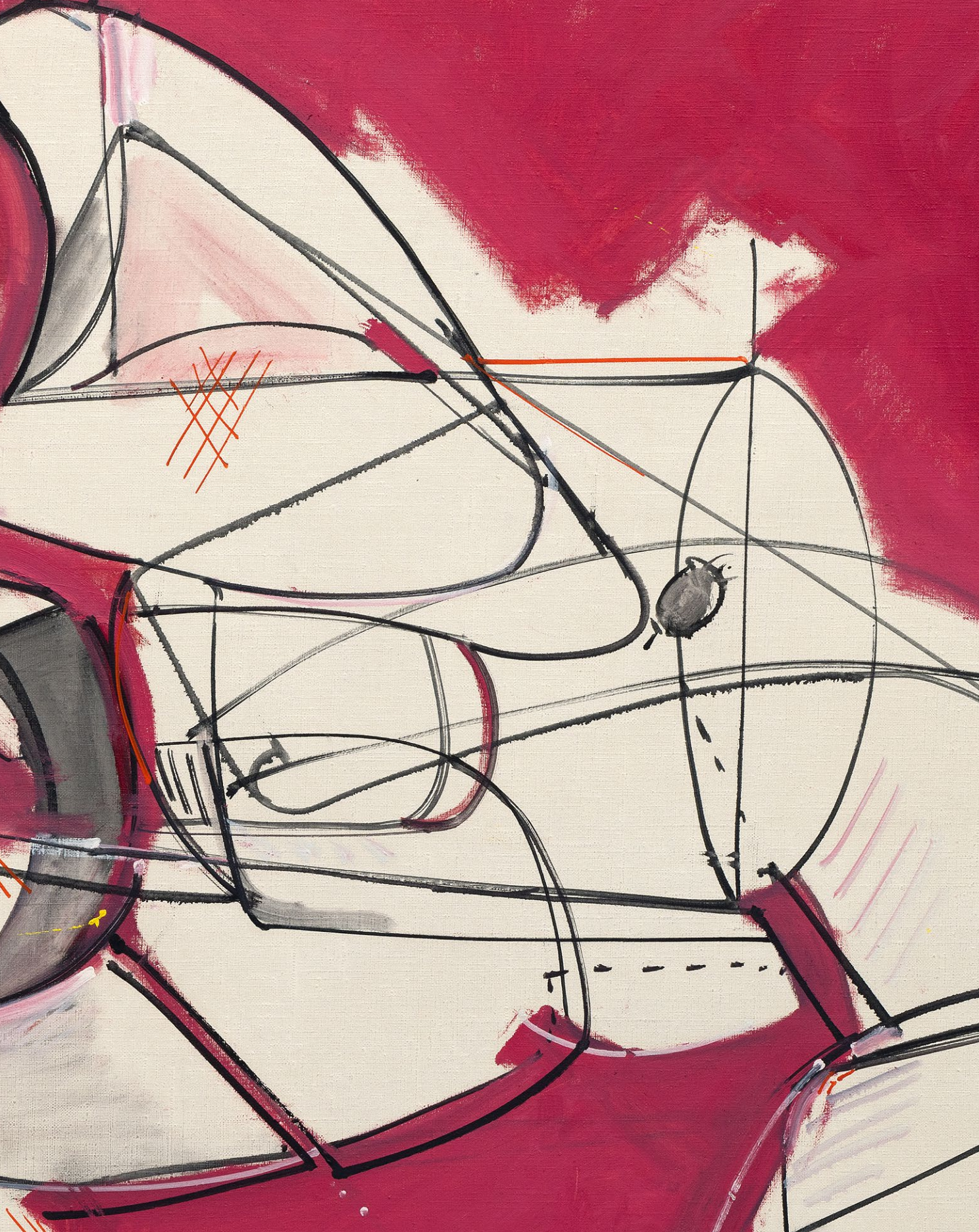
- Hans Hofmann's *Astral Image No. 1* of 1947 captures a pivotal moment in his artistic evolution as he wrestled with the competing forces of linearity and painterly abstraction.
- *Astral Image No. 1* challenged the framework of Hofmann's singular vision, blending Cubist discipline with the vibrant, unruly energy that remained a hallmark of his oeuvre.
- This painting reflects Hofmann's deliberate explorations during the late 1940s that underscore his unique ability to create works that resist easy categorization, standing apart as deeply personal explorations of form and color.



# DETAIL IMAGES













# COMPARABLE PAINTINGS SOLD AT AUCTION



*Bacchanale*

1946

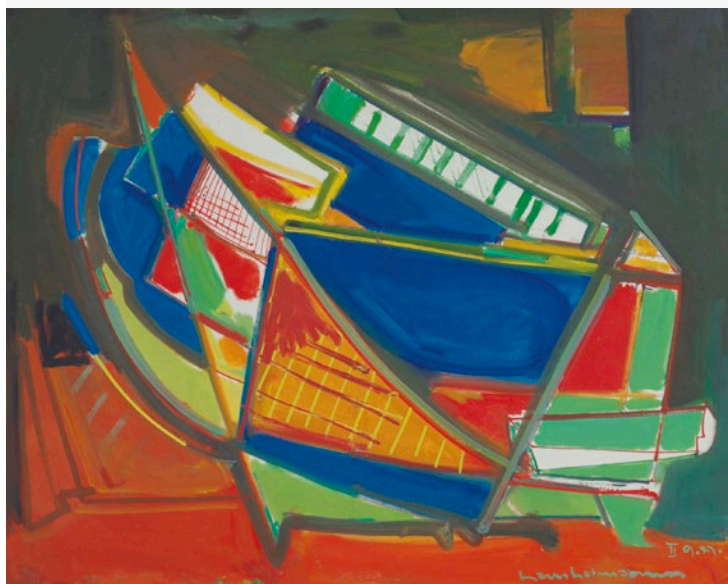
oil and gesso on masonite

64 x 48 in. (162.6 x 122 cm)

**Sold at Sotheby's New York:  
May 2008 for \$668,200**

*Studio*  
1947  
oil on canvas  
48 x 59 7/8 in. (121/9 x 152 cm)

**Sold at Christie's New York:  
May 2017 for \$487,500**





# COMPARABLE PAINTINGS SOLD AT AUCTION



*Summer Glory*  
1944  
oil on panel  
55 x 40 in. (139.7 x 101.6 cm)

**Sold at Christie's New York:  
September 2017 for \$468,500**

*The Hand (Red Painting)*  
*[The Blue Hand]*  
1948  
oil on panel  
44  $\frac{5}{8}$  x 34  $\frac{5}{8}$  in. (113.3 x 87.9 cm)

**Sold at Sotheby's New York:  
May 2022 for \$453,600**



# COMPARABLE PAINTINGS SOLD AT AUCTION



*L'objet*  
1950  
oil on canvas  
50 x 40 in. (127 x 101.6 cm)

**Sold at Sotheby's New York:  
November 2009 for \$446,500**

*Nuclear*  
1947  
oil on canvas  
60 x 48 in. (152.4 x 121.9 cm)

**Sold at Sotheby's New York:  
September 2015 for \$406,000**





# COMPARABLE PAINTINGS SOLD AT AUCTION



*Birth of Taurus*

1945

oil on panel

51 ½ x 48 in. (130.8 x 121.9 cm)

**Sold at Artcurial Beurret Bailly  
Widmer: September 2021 for  
\$299,946**

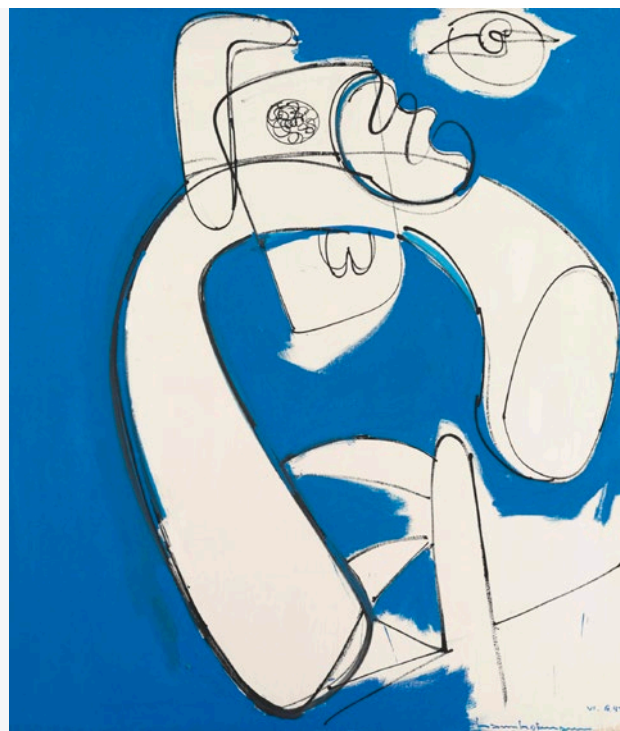
*White in Blue*

1947

oil on canvas

60 x 52 ¼ in. (152.4 x 132.7 cm)

**Sold at Christie's New York:  
November 2011 for \$290,500**



# HOFMANN PAINTINGS IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS



Addison Gallery of American Art  
Phillips Academy

*Black Demon*

1944

oil on panel

31 x 48 ½ in. (78.7 x 123.1 cm)

Museum of Fine Arts  
Boston, MA

*Embrace*

1947

casein on gessoed plywood

23 ⅝ x 57 in. (60 x 144.7 cm)





# HOFMANN PAINTINGS IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS



**Worcester Art Museum  
Worcester, MA**

*Black Light*

1949

oil on canvas

24 x 30 in. (61 x 76.2 cm)

**Memorial Art Gallery  
Rochester, NY**

*Untitled*

1946

gouache on 2-ply board

17 ½ x 22 ⅝ in. (44.5 x 57.4 cm)



# HOFMANN PAINTINGS IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS



**Berkeley Art Museum  
Berkeley, CA**

*Ecstasy*  
1947  
oil on canvas  
68 x 60 in. (172.7 x 152.2 cm)

**Dayton Art Institute  
Dayton, OH**

*Composition*  
1944  
gouache on paper  
16  $\frac{7}{8}$  x 14 in. (42.9 x 35.5 cm)





“My aim in painting is to create pulsating, luminous, and open surfaces that emanate a mystic light in accordance with my deepest insight into the experience of life and nature.”

**Hans Hofmann**

# HISTORY



Hans Hofmann, 1949

Hans Hofmann's *Astral Image No. 1* of 1947 captures a pivotal moment in his artistic evolution as he wrestled with the competing forces of linearity and painterly abstraction. Exhibited in the same year at Betty Parsons Gallery in New York—Hofmann's first show with Parsons — the painting represents a phase of intense experimentation in which Cubist-inspired linear elements took center stage. Lines arc and stretch across the canvas, creating a dynamic framework that opens into areas filled with flatly applied alizarin crimson. These contrasting forces give the work a sense of tension and vitality.

During this period, Hofmann's reliance on linearity provided a departure from the more fluid, painterly dynamism of his earlier works. From 1944 to 1951, this linear impulse permeated his practice, signaling a prolonged exploration of modes of expression in which he grappled with reconciling abstraction and structure.



While some viewed this phase as a retreat from the energetic breakthroughs that defined American art's rise to global prominence, others recognized the distinctiveness of these paintings. *Astral Image No. 1* challenged the framework of Hofmann's singular vision, blending Cubist discipline with the vibrant, unruly energy that remained a hallmark of his oeuvre.

The work's flat planes of bright alizarin crimson, contrasted with the angular momentum of the lines, evoke a cosmos of restless energy, hinting at the celestial themes suggested by its title. This painting reflects Hofmann's deliberate explorations during the late 1940s that underscore his unique ability to create works that resist easy categorization, standing apart as deeply personal explorations of form and color.



Hans Hofmann at work in studio