

Pollock-Krasner

Pollock-Krasner House and Study Center

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STONY
BROOK

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK


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Pollock-Krasner House & Study Center Family Activity Guide



This guide is for kids and grown-ups. Two artists lived here many years ago. You're going to see their home and the studios where they worked.



Pollock-Krasner
Pollock-Krasner House and Study Center



During your visit today, remember to:

- Use your eyes; open them WIDE and LOOK carefully
- Look at the furniture and objects on display, but please DON'T TOUCH them
- WALK, do not run
- Talk QUIETLY when sharing ideas

Are you ready to explore?

Start at the pile of large rocks behind the main house. To focus, let's warm up our bodies—check off your favorites:

- 5 jumping jacks
- hop on one foot for 5 seconds
- run in place for 1 minute
- fly like a kite
- 3 sit-ups
- a headstand
- stand in prayer position

Great! Now, let's look around and have some fun. The water you see is Accabonac Creek, a small river. "Accabonac" is a Native American word that means "a place where ground nuts are found."

A ground nut is:

ACORN STONE POTATO BASEBALL APPLE



CLOSE YOUR EYES AND
DIG DEEP INTO YOUR
IMAGINATION. IMAGINE
THAT THE TWO ARTISTS
WHO ONCE LIVED HERE
ARE SHOWING **YOU**
AROUND THEIR HOUSE.



HELLO.

Hi. I'm PAUL JACKSON POLLOCK.
I DON'T USE MY FIRST NAME,
SO PLEASE CALL ME

JACKSON.



HELLO.

HELLO. I'M JACKSON'S WIFE, LEE
KRASNER. MY REAL FIRST NAME IS
LENORE, BUT EVERYONE CALLS ME

LEE.

What's your name or nickname?

Write it here

JACKSON:

I WAS BORN IN WYOMING AND GREW UP IN ARIZONA AND CALIFORNIA, WHERE THERE'S A LOT OF WIDE OPEN SPACE. WHEN I WAS A KID, I USED TO GO ON HIKES AND CAMPING TRIPS WITH MY DAD AND MY FOUR BROTHERS. BEING CLOSE TO NATURE IS IMPORTANT TO ME, BUT I DON'T LOOK AT THE SCENERY WHILE I'M WORKING. I USUALLY LAY MY CANVAS FLAT ON THE STUDIO FLOOR AND WALK AROUND IT AS I PAINT. I DON'T MAKE SKETCHES OR PLAN THE PICTURE IN ADVANCE—I JUST WORK DIRECTLY FROM MY IMAGINATION. I LIKE TO USE LIQUID PAINT TO MAKE LONG, LOOPING LINES, COLORFUL PUDDLES AND LIVELY SPLASHES. WHY DO I PAINT LIKE THAT? BECAUSE THAT WAY I CAN EXPRESS MYSELF FREELY. OTHER ARTISTS PAINT PICTURES OF THINGS THEY SEE, BUT I PAINT PICTURES OF WHAT I FEEL.

LEE:

I GREW UP IN BROOKLYN AND STUDIED ART IN NEW YORK CITY, BUT I LOVE LIVING IN THE COUNTRY. JACKSON AND I BOTH ENJOY WALKING IN THE WOODS AND ON THE BEACH. WE COLLECT ROCKS, SHELLS AND DRIFTWOOD TO DECORATE THE HOUSE. LIKE JACKSON, I TRY TO PAINT IN A VERY NATURAL, FREE WAY, BUT WITHOUT TRYING TO COPY NATURE. I OFTEN START BY TACKING A CANVAS ON THE STUDIO WALL AND MAKING A FEW BRUSHSTROKES ON IT. THEN SOMETHING WILL SUGGEST ITSELF TO ME—IT COULD BE A FIGURE, OR AN ANIMAL OR A PLANT, OR MAYBE JUST A FANTASTIC SHAPE—AND I KEEP WORKING ON IT UNTIL I GET A PICTURE THAT SATISFIES ME.

FACT: DID YOU KNOW?

Jackson became famous after LIFE magazine wrote an article about him asking — Is he the greatest living painter in the United States?

OUR ARTWORK IS CALLED **ABSTRACT** BECAUSE IT DOESN'T TRY TO COPY WHAT THINGS LOOK LIKE. INSTEAD, OUR PAINTINGS ARE ABOUT EMOTIONS AND FEELINGS. THEY ARE ALSO ABOUT NATURE: THE WEATHER, THE OCEAN, THE WOODS AND THE SKY. THIS KIND OF ART IS KNOWN AS "ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM."

YOU OR YOUR FAMILY MIGHT HAVE SEEN SOME OF OUR ART IN MUSEUMS.
WRITE THE NAME OF A MUSEUM YOU HAVE VISITED HERE:

Let's have a look around Lee and Jackson's **PROPERTY.**

1 They moved here from New York City in 1945.
About how long ago was that?

- 20 years ago
- 35 years ago
- 65 years ago
- 100 years ago

2 The building with the porch is the main house. It was built in 1879.
How many years ago is that? _____

3 The little white building next to it is now the museum store. It used to be used for storage.

4 There's an even smaller white building next to the shop.
Do you know what it was originally used for?
Circle the answer:

TOOL SHED OUTDOOR TOILET CLOTHES CLOSET

5 Find the garage. **How many cars are parked there today?** _____

6 Look at the big barn behind the trees.
That's the art studio where Jackson and Lee created their artwork.

Let's go inside
the **BUILDINGS.**



IN THE STUDIO....



1 Look at the studio floor. **Write 3 colors you see.**

2 Artists use many different tools in addition to paint brushes when creating art. **Write 2 you see.**

_____ and _____

3 **What did Jackson and Lee recycle to store their paint brushes and pencils in?**

4 Be an art detective. **Find the following clues that will give you more information about the artists.**

a human skull. **Why would an artist want a skull?**

Lee's paint-covered boots. **Why did she wear warm boots when she painted?**

photos of Jackson and Lee. **What are they doing in the pictures?** _____

a honey can. **What other kinds of cans do you see?**

a basting syringe. **How did Jackson use it?**

a smock. **Why did Lee wear it?**

FACT: DID YOU KNOW?

After Jackson had been working in the barn for several years, he fixed up the building. He put in heat and electric lights, and he covered the wooden floor, which is why you can see so much paint on it today.

What did he cover the studio floor with?
Hint: Look at The Autograph Baseball Game hanging up on the right before you enter the studio.



FACT: DID YOU KNOW?

When Jackson and Lee bought this old house it had no central heat or running water.

IN THE HOUSE...

1 In the kitchen, find a small painting by Jackson Pollock above the wooden cupboard. Look at the Lee Krasner image near it, next to the window.

JACKSON

LEE

What colors do you see? _____

Describe the movement. _____

What shapes do you see? _____

This artwork looks like... _____

How does this artwork make you feel? _____

2 Find the library books in the living room. **What are the names of two authors you may like to read one day?**

_____ & _____

Look at the artist catalogues and **name two artists who were important to Jackson and Lee.**

_____ & _____

3 Check out the music collection. **Name two musicians the artists listened to.**

_____ & _____

4 Find the dial telephone. **What is the phone number of the house?**

Write it here. Hint: It begins **EA** _____

UPSTAIRS....

1 Walk up the narrow staircase. In the hall, you'll see some of Jackson and Lee's art work, and photographs of them. Their bedroom is at the end of the hall.

2 Look into the bedroom. You'll see lots of things that belonged to Lee. See if you can find the things on this list and check them off. HINT: There may be more than one of each.

something you watch for fun or information. **What is it?**

something that's growing. **What is it?**

something you use to talk to other people. **What is it?**

something you wear. **What is it?**

a picture of someone. **Can you guess who it is?**

FACT: DID YOU KNOW?

Lee used the second bedroom in the house as her painting studio for 10 years. She later moved her studio into the barn, where she could make larger works..

ACTIVITIES

1 Think about where you live. **What is something in your everyday surroundings that makes you:**

Happy? _____

Sad? _____

Calm? _____

Excited? _____

Angry? _____

2 Sketch something from your list above.

3 My favorite thing at The Pollock-Krasner House and Study Center is _____.

4 Sketch it in the box below.

A large, empty white rectangular box intended for a sketch, positioned below the text of step 4. The box is bounded by a thin black line and occupies the lower two-thirds of the page.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN

1. Artists' tool
2. Jackson put his canvas here
3. You put these on to walk onto the studio floor
4. Pollock method—like a raindrop
5. Lee collected these from the beach
6. When paint spills
7. Artists create in this special place
8. The location of the Pollock-Krasner house
9. Jackson and Lee had a library of these
10. Tin container

ACROSS

- a. A sea creature with 5 arms/legs
- b. Where birds make nests
- c. A place with lots of books
- d. The number of buildings on the property
- e. The name of the magazine that said Pollock is "the greatest living painter in the United States"
- f. Art about lines, shapes and colors
- g. You wear them on your feet; Lee's are paint-covered
- h. One of the 5 senses important for artists
- i. Artists create this
- j. In the bedroom; you watch your favorite shows on it
- k. Initials of artists' house
- l. Its green and grows on the ground

WORD SEARCH

Find the hidden words in the puzzle below and circle them.

1. nature
2. drip
3. color
4. Jackson
5. Lee
6. studio
7. jazz
8. paint
9. art
10. beach

L K R L K F J A W L L
S O F N A T U R E F G
P J A S R A N O E R T
L E K B T C R O L O C
M N T E Z U K S V L A
O K W A Z G D R I P M
A R J C A T N I A P Z
R U Y H J A C K O R Z
J A C K S O N O E R E

RHYMING

TIC-TAC-TOE

Draw a straight line through the three words that rhyme.

Paint	Faint	Awe
Art	Drip	Draw
Lee	Studio	Saw

Boulder	Shell	Nature
Folder	Smell	Jackson
Creek	Sell	Beach

Jazz	Collage	Lee
Grass	See	Emotions
Key	Music	Abstract

AT HOME...

- 1** Visit the Pollock-Krasner House and Study Center on the Web, at www.pkhouse.org
- 2** Continue your study of Jackson Pollock at the National Gallery of Art's Web feature, www.nga.gov/feature/pollock/pollockhome.shtm
- 3** For a fun project, visit www.jacksonpollock.org, an interactive Website created by the digital artist Miltos Manetas to copy Pollock's drips, splats, dots, lines, shapes and colors.

