

## BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART



### **MEDIA ALERT: Blanton Museum to Present *Without Limits: Helen Frankenthaler, Abstraction, and the Language of Print***

**What:** The Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin announces [\*Without Limits: Helen Frankenthaler, Abstraction, and the Language of Print\*](#), opening Saturday, September 4 in the museum's *Paper Vault* galleries. Following a generous gift of 10 prints and 6 proofs from the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation as part of the Frankenthaler Prints Initiative, this exhibition spans five decades of eminent abstract painter Helen Frankenthaler's career, as she embraced printmaking with the same ardent exploration of color, form, and technique she cultivated in her painting practice. *Japanese Maple* (above), which engages the *ukiyo-e* style woodcut tradition that originated in 17<sup>th</sup>-century Japan, is emblematic of Frankenthaler's experimentation with various printmaking techniques, from lithographs to screenprints, etchings, and woodcuts. In another example, a rare display of working, trial, and cancellation proofs shows the evolution of Frankenthaler's *Harvest*, one of the first editions Frankenthaler worked on with Kenneth Tyler, one of several master printmakers the artist would collaborate with. Her work is joined by contemporaries such as Robert Motherwell, who, along with Frankenthaler, contributed to a post-war printmaking renaissance; as well as Susan Rothenberg, Julie Mehretu, and Gego, among many others, who likewise used the medium of print to capture and translate abstract visions.

**When:** September 4, 2021 – February 20, 2022

**Admission Information:**

Monday and Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday – Saturday: 10am – 5pm

Sunday: 1 – 5pm

Due to construction on the grounds, the new entrance to the museum is accessible via Brazos Street.

*Without Limits: Helen Frankenthaler, Abstraction, and the Language of Print* is organized by the Blanton Museum of Art.

Major support for this exhibition is provided by the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation.

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**Image:** Helen Frankenthaler, *Japanese Maple*, 2005, AP 5/12, sixteen color woodcut, 26 x 38 in., Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, Gift of the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation, © 2021 Helen Frankenthaler Foundation, Inc. /Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / Pace Editions, Inc., New York

**About Helen Frankenthaler:**

Helen Frankenthaler (1928–2011) is recognized among the most important American abstract painters of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, widely credited for her pivotal role in the transition from Abstract Expressionism to Color Field painting. Best known for her invention of the soak-stain technique, Frankenthaler experimented tirelessly throughout her six-decade-long career, producing a large body of work in painting, prints, works on paper, and other mediums, whose impact on contemporary art has been profound and continues to grow.

Frankenthaler had her first solo exhibition at New York's Tibor de Nagy Gallery in 1951—the same year she was featured in the landmark exhibition *9th St. Exhibition of Paintings and Sculpture*. Her distinguished career includes numerous monographic museum exhibitions at: the Jewish Museum in New York (1960); Whitney Museum of American Art (1969), which toured in Europe; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (a works on paper retrospective in 1985); and the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth (1989), which had an extensive tour in the United States. Additional notable exhibitions at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. (1993) and the Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami, FL (2003) featured her print editions and paintings on paper. She also maintained a consistent presence in major international exhibitions, including representing the United States in the 33rd Venice Biennale in 1966.

Frankenthaler also received numerous awards and accolades during her lifetime, including the National Medal of Arts in 2001. Her work is held in the collections of major museums worldwide and continues to be exhibited widely, most recently at the Metropolitan Museum of Art; Whitney Museum of American Art; National Gallery of Art, DC; and Tate Modern.

**About the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation:**

Established and endowed by Helen Frankenthaler during her lifetime, the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation advances the artist's legacy and inspires a new generation of practitioners through a range of philanthropic, educational, and research initiatives. Since becoming active in 2013, the Foundation has continued to strategically expand its program, which includes organizing and supporting significant exhibitions of the artist's work, fostering new research and publications, advancing educational programs in partnership with arts organizations around the world, and launching groundbreaking initiatives that foster systemic change in the field. As a primary resource on the artist, and a steward of her collection and archive, the Foundation holds an extensive selection of Frankenthaler's work in a variety of mediums, her collection of works by other artists, and original papers and materials pertaining to her life and work.

**About the Blanton Museum of Art:**

Founded in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art holds the largest public collection in Central Texas with around 19,000 objects. Recognized as the home of Ellsworth Kelly's *Austin*, its major collecting areas are modern and contemporary American and Latin American art, Italian Renaissance and Baroque paintings, and prints and drawings. The Blanton offers thought-provoking, visually arresting, and personally moving encounters with art.