



HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY.

Hofstra University Museum  
112 Hofstra University  
Hempstead, NY 11549-1120

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## Call for Papers

Hofstra University Museum  
presents a symposium:

***Perle Fine and Early Leaders  
of Abstract Expressionism***

April 24 and 25, 2009

# HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

*Where Art Inspires and Transforms*



# Call for Papers

Cover image: Perle Fine,  
(American, 1905-1988)  
*Convolution*, 1966-67  
Oil on linen  
HU68.58

This two-day event features a daylong symposium with two sessions of new scholarship, a panel discussion moderated by Helen Harrison, director of the Pollock-Krasner House and Study Center, and an optional daylong tour of museums and studios on Long Island's East End.

## Themes to Be Explored:

- ▶ Early leaders of Abstract Expressionism
- ▶ Women artists of the New York School
- ▶ Pioneering women gallery owners in New York
- ▶ The role of art media in Abstract Expressionism
- ▶ Influential Europeans in 1940s New York: Hans Hofmann, Piet Mondrian, Karl Nierendorf
- ▶ Artist-Teachers and their students in New York, 1930s-1950s

Papers will be selected for 20-minute presentations on Friday, April 24, 2009, as well as for potential publication in conference proceedings and/or the exhibition catalog. One of the papers chosen for publication may be awarded an \$800 publication prize by the Hans Hofmann Trust. Previously published materials are ineligible.

**Please send proposals no later than July 1, 2008, to Beth Levinthal (address below). All proposals must include:**

- ▶ Letter of intent
- ▶ Two-page abstract
- ▶ One-paragraph biography
- ▶ Curriculum vitae

## Symposium co-directors:

Beth E. Levinthal  
*Director*  
Hofstra University Museum  
112 Hofstra University  
Hempstead, NY 11549-1120  
[Beth.e.levinthal@hofstra.edu](mailto:Beth.e.levinthal@hofstra.edu)

Christina Mossaides Strassfield  
*Curator*  
Guild Hall  
East Hampton, NY

The symposium will be held in conjunction with the Hofstra University Museum exhibition:  
*Tranquil Power: The Art of Perle Fine*  
Emily Lowe Gallery and David Filderman Gallery  
April 7-June 26, 2009

**Perle Fine** (1905-1988) was one of the few women artists in the inner circle of the Abstract Expressionism movement. She moved from Boston to New York in the late 1920s to study art. Kimon Nicolaides was her mentor at The Art Students League. By the late 1930s, she attended Hans Hofmann's studio sessions. Fine soon became an active member of the New York School. Championed by Baroness Hilla Rebay and the S.R. Guggenheim Foundation, Fine also interacted with the American Abstract Artists group, where she met Piet Mondrian. As her work developed into a more forceful and expressive abstraction, she was honored with solo exhibits at the galleries of Karl Nierendorf, Marian Willard, and Betty Parsons. In 1950, Willem de Kooning sponsored her membership in the Artist's Club. She participated in the seminal 9th Street Show of 1951, and was included in all five New York Annuals of the 1950s. In the mid-1950s, Fine built a studio in Springs, Long Island, near friends and colleagues Lee Krasner and Jackson Pollock, becoming a member of a sparse but ultimately enduring artistic community.

As the organizing venue for this traveling exhibition, Hofstra University Museum is proud to showcase the work of Perle Fine. A prolific artist intent on exploring her own personal abstract language in a variety of media, Fine moved her studio to the East End of Long Island when she was in her artistic prime. She was an influential faculty member in the Fine Arts Department at Hofstra University from 1962 to 1973.