Perhaps no aspect of Jackson Pollock’s oeuvre—one of the most important American artists of the twentieth century—has been more misunderstood than the drawings Pollock created during Jungian psychoanalysis sessions from 1939–40. Presented to his psychotherapist, where they remained in private files for almost three decades until their publication in 1970, these drawings have been shrouded in both personal and art-historical controversy—from a lawsuit filed by Pollock’s widow, Lee Krasner, to wide-ranging justifications of them as Jungian iconography or as “proof” of Pollock’s supposed mental disorder.

Published in conjunction with an exhibition touring the United States, this book draws together sixty-nine drawings and one gouache, beautifully reproduced in accurate color for the first time. The images reveal a range of styles, from highly refined and elaborate sketches to rapid and automatic improvisations, as well as a range of subjects, from human figures, animals, and cryptic figures to purely abstract forms. Together, they bear witness to Pollock’s intense interest in the latest contemporary art as well as non-Western traditions.

Art historian Claude Cernuschi’s essay addresses key historical and interpretive questions surrounding these drawings: what was their intended purpose? do they have particular psychoanalytic importance? what is the relationship between psychoanalysis and art? Ultimately, Cernuschi argues for the importance of reintegrating these works into their rightly held place in Pollock’s oeuvre. Remarkable for their beauty as well as spontaneity, these drawings reflect the conscious intellectual choice of an artist blazing new trails.
Additional Information

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Jackson Pollock has 1 rating and 0 reviews: Published June 28th 1970 by New York; Horizon Press, 123 pages, Paperback. Goodreads helps you keep track of books you want to read. Start by marking “Jackson Pollock: Psychoanalytic Drawings” as Want to Read: Want to Read saving… Want to Read. Currently Reading. Read. Other editions. Enlarge cover. Artist Jackson Pollock dribbling sand on painting while working in his studio - Photo by Martha Holmes. Jackson Pollock. Deemed the “greatest painter alive” during his lifetime, Jackson Pollock was an American painter who was a major artist abstract expressionist art in the 20th century. Pollock was expelled from two high schools during his formative years, the second one being Los Angeles Manual Arts School, where he was encouraged to pursue his interest in art. Paul Jackson Pollock (ˈpɒlək; January 28, 1912 – August 11, 1956) was an American painter and a major figure in the abstract expressionist movement. He was widely noticed for his technique of pouring or splashing liquid household paint onto a horizontal surface (‘drip technique’), enabling him to view and paint his canvases from all angles. It was also called ‘action painting’, since he used the force of his whole body to paint, often in a frenetic dancing style. This extreme form of abstraction