



**CASTELLO DI RIVOLI**

**MUSEO D'ARTE CONTEMPORANEA**

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<b>Exhibition</b>	<i>Franz Kline 1910-1962</i>
<b>Curator</b>	Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev
<b>Catalogue</b>	Skira Milan
<b>Press Office</b>	Massimo Melotti, Responsible Manuela Vasco, tel. +39/011.9565209 Silvano Bertalot, tel. +39/011.9565211 fax +39/011.9565231, e-mail: <a href="mailto:press@castellodirivoli.org">press@castellodirivoli.org</a>
<b>Press preview</b>	Monday, October 18, 2004, 11.30 a.m.
<b>Opening</b>	Tuesday, October 19, 2004, 7.00 p.m.
<b>Dates</b>	October 20, 2004 - January 30, 2005
<b>Hours</b>	Tuesday → Thursday 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Friday → Sunday, 10.00 a.m. - 9.00 p.m.
<b>Entrance</b>	€ 6.50 full price, € 4.50 reduced price
<b>Location</b>	Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Piazza Mafalda di Savoia - 10098 Rivoli (Turin)
<b>Education services and public programs</b>	Education Department tel. +39/011.9565213 - fax +39/011.9565232 e-mail: <a href="mailto:educa@castellodirivoli.org">educa@castellodirivoli.org</a>
<b>Bus service</b>	Saturday, Sunday and holidays departure from Turin, Piazza Castello information tel. +39/011.9565280
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**The exhibition has been made possible thanks to  
Regione Piemonte, Compagnia di San Paolo, Fondazione CRT**

*Franz Kline 1910-1962*

Curated by Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev

October 20, 2004 – January 30, 2005

Press preview: Monday October 18, 2004 – 11:30 a.m.

Castello di Rivoli Museum of Contemporary Art is pleased to announce the opening of a comprehensive and wide-ranging historical exhibition devoted to the major American artist Franz Kline (1910-1962). Kline was born on May 23, 1910 in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. In the late 1930s and during the 1940s he painted urban landscapes of New York and of the mining region where he was raised. During this same period he was commissioned to paint murals and portraits. In the mid-'40s he developed an interest in the expressive possibilities of abstraction, reducing and simplifying the compositional elements of his early realist style, where he still made use of color and figuration. His participation in the renowned *Ninth Street Show* and in *American Vanguard Art for Paris Exhibition* at the Sidney Janis Gallery confirmed his status as one of the most important figures in the emerging American Abstract Expressionism movement. In the mid-'50s Kline reintroduced color into his work, initially unsystematically, then in increasingly broad segments. In the decade preceding his death his work was included in the most important group exhibitions, organized by the most prestigious international institutions, such as the Venice Biennale (1956 and 1960) and the Carnegie International (1955, 1958, and 1961). He died on May 13, 1962 in New York.

This is the first European exhibition since 1994 to analyze both the core group of late abstract works, beginning in the '40s, and the early, somber works of a realist nature by this extraordinary protagonist of contemporary art.

One hundred essential works by Kline will be on view at Castello di Rivoli, including paintings, drawings, pastels, watercolors, gouaches, and documentary materials from major public and private collections. To illustrate all the most significant phases of Kline's work, the exhibition includes early oil paintings from the late 1930s and the 1940s, where it is possible to detect his realist inspiration, the large black and white works that developed in the context of Abstract Expressionism, and the late works, where the artist returned to the use of color.

A 500-page color catalogue, published on the occasion of the exhibition, includes critical essays by Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, David Anfam, and Dore Ashton and reproductions of the works in the exhibition and all the fundamental canvases painted by the artist throughout his lifetime.

This exhibition is the pivotal event among the exhibitions organized to mark the twentieth anniversary of Castello di Rivoli Museum of Contemporary Art, which opened in 1984.

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## Biography

Franz Kline was born on May 23, 1910 in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. While enrolled at Boston University, he attended courses at the Boston Art Students League from 1931 to 1935. That same year he moved to London, where he attended Heatherly's Art School from 1936 to 1938. The following year he left Europe to settle permanently in New York.

In the late 1930s and during the 1940s Kline painted urban views of New York and landscapes of the mining region where he was raised. He also painted commissioned murals and portraits. During this period he received prizes at the annual exhibitions of the National Academy of Design.

In the mid-'40s Kline began to develop an interest in the expressive possibilities of abstraction and to reduce and simplify the compositional elements of his early realist style, where he still made use of color and figuration. Around 1948 he used a projector to enlarge some of his black and white drawings. The expressive power and the magnificence of the forms and brushstrokes confirmed his intention to adopt a style that was characterized by the purity of its abstraction.

In 1950 Kline exhibited an abstract painting in the exhibition *Talent 1950* at the Kootz Gallery, organized by Clement Greenberg and Meyer Schapiro. A few months later, the Egan Gallery in New York gave him his first solo exhibition. His participation in the renowned *Ninth Street Show*, held at 60 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street, and in *American Vanguard Art for Paris Exhibition* at the Sidney Janis Gallery confirmed his status as one of the most significant figures in the emerging Abstract Expressionism movement.

In the mid-'50s Kline reintroduced color into his black and white palette, initially in unsystematic fashion, then using increasingly broad segments. In 1956 Sidney Janis became his principal gallery dealer and organized, among other things, solo exhibitions in 1956, 1958, and 1961. The artist had his first solo exhibition in Europe at the Galleria La Tartaruga in Rome, followed by a show at the Galleria del Naviglio in Milan in the spring of 1958. When he participated in the 1960 Venice Biennale he spent a month traveling throughout Italy.

During the decade preceding his death, Kline's work was included in important group exhibitions, including *The New Decade: 35 American Painters and Sculptors* at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York (1955), *12 Americans* at the Museum of Modern Art in New York (1956), and in the traveling exhibition *The New American Painting*, organized by the International Program of the Museum of Modern Art in 1958, and shown in Basel, Milan, Madrid, Berlin, Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris, and London. The artist also participated in international exhibitions, such as the Venice Biennale in 1956 and 1960 and the Carnegie International in 1955, 1958, and 1961.

Kline died on May 13, 1962 in New York.