

# The Intertwined Lives of Thomas Hart Benton and Jackson Pollock

## A Tale of Two American Masters

The intertwined lives of Thomas Hart Benton and Jackson Pollock are a fascinating study in the history of American art. Both men were born in the early 20th century and came to prominence during the Great Depression. Benton was a regionalist painter who celebrated the American heartland, while Pollock was an abstract expressionist who revolutionized the way we think about painting.



## Tom and Jack: The Intertwined Lives of Thomas Hart Benton and Jackson Pollock by Henry Adams

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language	: English
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Despite their different styles, the two men shared a number of similarities. They were both passionate about their art, and they both had a profound impact on the development of American art. Benton helped to shape the

regionalist movement of the 1930s, while Pollock was a leading figure in the abstract expressionist movement of the 1940s and 1950s.

Benton was born in Neosho, Missouri, in 1889. He studied art at the Art Institute of Chicago and the National Academy of Design in New York City. In the early 1920s, he traveled to Europe, where he was influenced by the work of the Mexican muralists. When he returned to the United States, he began to paint scenes of American life in a style that was both realistic and idealistic.

Pollock was born in Cody, Wyoming, in 1912. He studied art at the Art Students League in New York City. In the late 1930s, he began to experiment with abstract expressionism. He developed a unique style of painting in which he poured and dripped paint onto the canvas. His paintings are characterized by their vibrant colors and chaotic energy.

Benton and Pollock first met in the early 1940s. They were both living in New York City at the time, and they were both members of the avant-garde art scene. They became friends and mutual admirers of each other's work.

In 1943, Benton and Pollock collaborated on a mural for the Hotel Roosevelt in New York City. The mural, which was titled "Arts of the West," depicted scenes from American history and culture. It was a major success, and it helped to raise the profile of both artists.

Benton and Pollock continued to be friends and colleagues for the rest of their lives. They both died in 1956, within a few months of each other. They are both considered to be among the most important American artists of the 20th century.

The intertwined lives of Thomas Hart Benton and Jackson Pollock are a reminder of the interconnectedness of the American art world. Despite their different styles, the two men shared a common goal: to create art that was both meaningful and beautiful.

## Image Credits

- Thomas Hart Benton, *American Gothic*, 1930. Image courtesy of the Art Institute of Chicago.
- Jackson Pollock, *Number 1A*, 1948. Image courtesy of the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

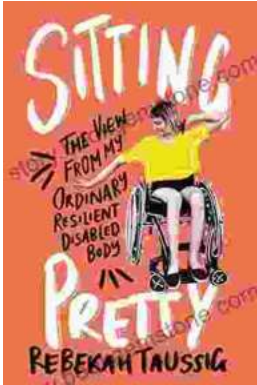


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