

Frankenthaler, Helen (b. 1928)  
New York, New York

#### EDUCATION/INFLUENCES

- Bennington College, VT, 1950 studied with Hans Hoffman
- Introduced to NY Art Scene, especially Abstract Expressionists by art critic Clement Greenberg, influenced by Jackson Pollock, especially his black drip paintings. Also influenced by Robert Motherwell (to whom she was briefly married).



#### BIG IDEAS/THEMES

- 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Abstract Expressionist-non-representational, bold, gestural and large in scale. Her works may not have the strong emotional content of Pollock, DeKooning, etc. She was more about exploring the media.
- Works on the floor with brushes, mops, brooms and buckets, uses oil paint diluted with turpentine or kerosene, pouring directly on ungesoed canvas so that paint soaks in (a technique later adopted by “Color Field Painter”-Frankenthaler has also been grouped with them).
- Trying to achieve a watercolor-like effect

#### KIA WORK-Code Blue, acrylic on canvas, 1980

- Representative of works from the 1980s.
- Ungessoed canvas has a stained effect as the paint soaks directly into the canvas rather than lying on top.
- Balance between forceful and calm achieved by her use of color and paint application.