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**Color Creates Light: Studies with Hans Hofmann** brings together the man, the schools, the painting, the ideas, and the teaching. Jed Perl of *The New Republic* calls this book “enormously important... nothing less than the missing chapter in the history of the period,” for Hofmann’s decade of painting in Paris prior to World War I, combined with his observations of the masters of all cultures, enabled him to explain Cubism to the avant-garde and catalyzed the later Abstract Expressionism.

In the ateliers of German emigrant Hans Hofmann (1880-1966) in Munich, New York, and Provincetown, talented students later to become some of the most significant artists and educators of the time rubbed shoulders with critics, collectors, and curators, who in turn transmitted and transmuted Hofmann’s ideas across Europe, America, Canada, and beyond.

From how Hofmann taught to what he taught, artists talk shop about the inner workings of the visual language, a discussion essential to the contemporary dialogue in the arts and required reading for those engaged in creative composition, whether visual, verbal, musical, architectural, cinematic, or choreographic.

An artist who “ate color not with a teaspoon but with a shovel,” Hofmann brought European modernism and abstraction to art students of mid-century America with the same *Kraft* (power, life force) that imbued his own work. With sensitivity, style, and exemplary use of sources, Tina Dickey recreates the man, his work, his teaching, and the lost ambience of that idealistic era when art changed lives, before there was a mass media or international art market, and before cynicism and irony saturated the art world. In an era that regards sincerity and integrity as old-fashioned, irrelevant, and even embarrassing, Hofmann’s belief that art can generate “forces of creation equivalent to forces in the physical world” (from Harold Rosenberg’s eulogy) makes clear what is lost when the importance of art is reflected in its cost rather than its value.

ELLEN DISSANAYAKE, 2010

Author of *What Is Art For?*, *Homo Aestheticus: Where Art Comes From and Why*, *Art and Intimacy: How the Arts Began*

Color Creates Light

Studies with Hans Hofmann



Tina Dickey

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[www.colorcreateslight.com](http://www.colorcreateslight.com)

**AUTHOR:** Tina Dickey, artist and author, has contributed to numerous books and exhibition catalogs related to Hofmann and his former students in the United States, Canada, Spain, and Germany.

**COVER:** Hans Hofmann, *Sic Itur Ad Astra (Such is the Way to the Stars)*, 1962. Oil on canvas, 60 1/8 × 72 1/8 inches (152.7 × 183.2 cm). The Menil Collection, Houston, TX, (95-08), gift of Mrs. Louisa Stude Sarofim. Photo: George Hixson, Houston. © 2011 The Renate, Hans & Maria Hofmann Trust/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.