

Upon the death of his father, his interests shifted to art and he moved to Paris in 1904 to earn a living as a painter. Hofmann remained in Paris for 10 years, but ultimately returned to Germany and started an art school in Munich that eventually became well-known and highly respected.

In 1932, he emigrated to the U.S., initially teaching at UC Berkeley for a couple of years before moving to New York and opening his own arts academy. Two years later, he opened a summer school in Provincetown on Cape Cod that attracted numerous aspiring painters, some of whom would later become famous in their own right. Hofmann taught both in New York and Provincetown for a total of 28 years. Among the artists who studied under his tutelage: Jackson Pollock and his wife Lee Krasner, Helen Frankenthaler, Joan Mitchell, Franz Kline, Mark Rothko, Robert Motherwell and the sculptor Louise Nevelson. After nearly 30 years as a teacher and mentor to hundreds of artists, he closed his studios in 1957 and devoted the last decade of his life to painting full-time. Many art historians and critics believe it was during these years that he created his best work. Today his works fetch millions at auction - the record price for a Hofmann painting is \$8.8 million (for Lava, a painting done in 1960 that sold at a Christie's auction three years ago). Hofmann is buried in Truro on Cape Cod, the next town over from his beloved Provincetown.