A Rapturous Ode to Provincetown

Looking at the works of Helen Frankenthaler took shape at a summer retreat.

The landscape of Provincetown, with its white houses and ocean waves, is a place where artists have gathered for generations. Helen Frankenthaler, the groundbreaking painter whose works are on display at the Provincetown Art Association and Museum, spent many summers here, drawing inspiration from the natural beauty of the cape.

The exhibition, "Helen Frankenthaler: Provincetown," features more than 30 works by the artist, including paintings and prints. The paintings are characterized by their use of color and gestural brushwork, whichFrankenthaler developed in the 1950s and 1960s.

In her paintings, Frankenthaler used broad, sweeping strokes to create fluid, abstract images. Her use of color and form is reminiscent of the abstract expressionism movement of the 1940s and 1950s.

One of the highlights of the exhibition is "Flying," a 1952 oil on canvas that was created during a summer retreat on the cape. The painting features a series of organic shapes and colors that seem to float across the canvas, creating a sense of movement and energy.

Another notable work is "Provincetown," a painting that was created in 1961. This piece features a series of overlapping forms that suggest a sense of depth and space.

The exhibition also includes a series of prints that were created in the 1970s. These prints are characterized by their use of bold, geometric shapes and vibrant colors.

Overall, the exhibition provides a glimpse into Frankenthaler's creative process and the inspiration she drew from the Provincetown landscape. It is a testament to the power of art to evoke emotion and capture the essence of a place.