

Sale Neige



Orange



Sale Neige, 1980

Orange, 1981

Forces of Nature

Joan Mitchell (1925–1992) often found inspiration for her subject matter in urban and bucolic landscapes, from her native Chicago to a country home in Vétheuil, France.

Take a closer look

Mitchell contrasted areas of thick pigment with sections of bare canvas, playing with our perceptions of surface and depth. Crisscrossing brushstrokes create visual rhythm. Despite their seeming spontaneity, Mitchell's paintings evolved over months.

In her own words

"My paintings are titled after they are finished. I paint from remembered landscapes that I carry with me—and remembered feelings of them.... I could certainly never mirror nature. I would like more to paint what it leaves me with."

Who knew?

Sale Neige (French for "dirty snow") references the artist's early memories—gazing at frozen Lake Michigan, falling through the ice in a sledding accident, and being a champion figure skater.

Joan Mitchell, *Sale Neige*, 1980; Oil on canvas, 86¼ x 70⅞ inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Wallace and Wilhelmina Holladay; © Estate of Joan Mitchell

Joan Mitchell, *Orange*, 1981; Oil on canvas, 63¼ x 51 inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Wallace and Wilhelmina Holladay; Conservation funds generously provided in honor of Ed Williams by his family; © Estate of Joan Mitchell

