

Joan Snyder

A Perspective, 1968-2017

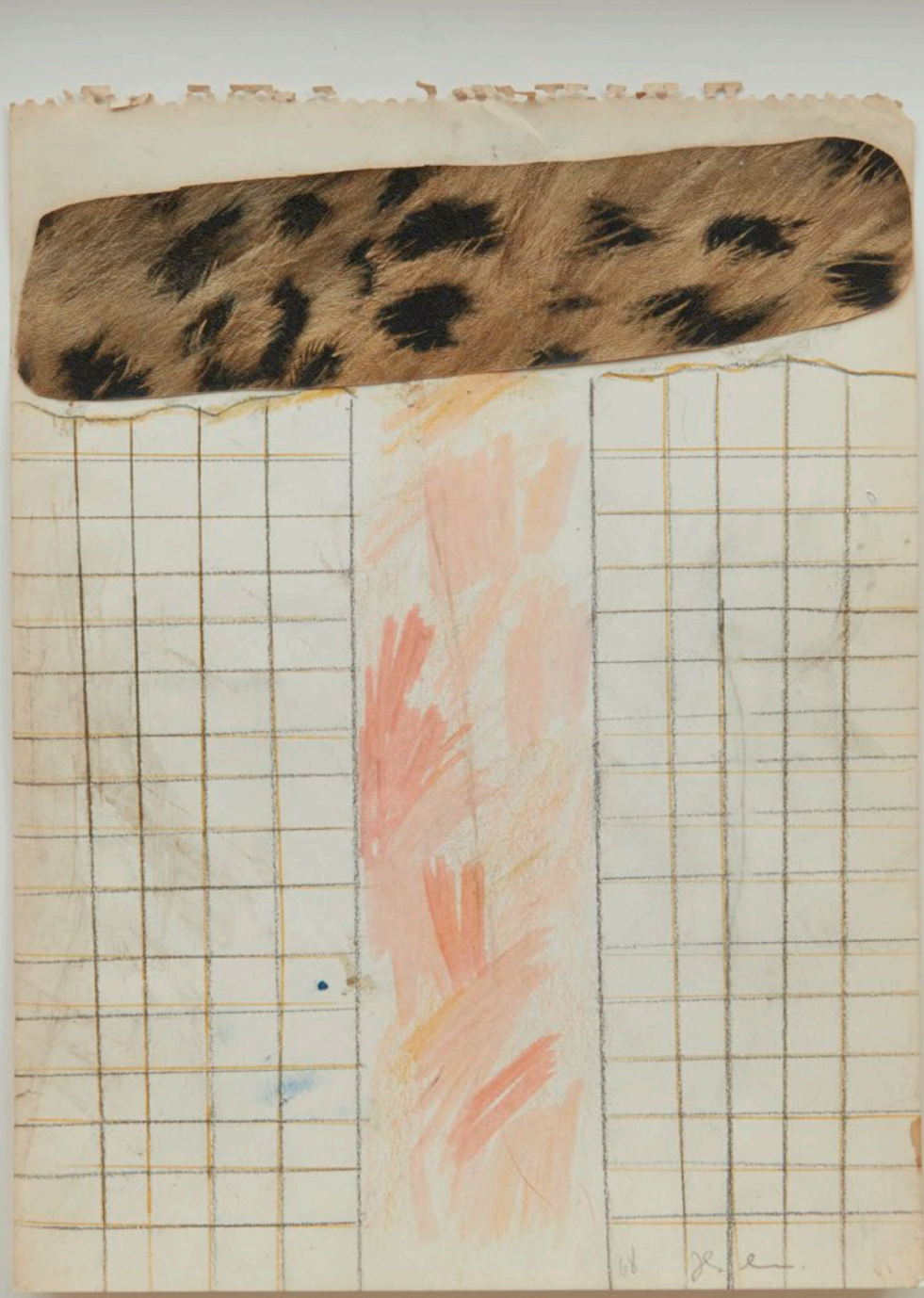
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Joan Snyder A Perspective, 1968-2017

Joan Snyder is one of the foremost abstract painters working today. Beginning in the early 1970s, she pioneered the narrative potential of abstraction through her sensuous mixed media works. Known collectively as the “stroke” paintings, these breakout canvases from the 1970s merged the delicacy of pencil drawing with the overlay of thick brushwork. The lush, staccato strokes rain down in a bevy of colors, and are set against an often-visible grid.

During the 1980s, her expressionist paintings continued to evolve into full-blown maximalist compositions, with scrawls of poetic text. They were frequently accompanied by additions of glitter, thread, paper mâché, and other dimensional flourishes. She began collaging natural materials such as straw, twigs, and seeds to further embellish her heavily textured surfaces. Her paintings are emotive, dramatic, and raw: their gravitas comes in the form of songs and symphonies that resonate as celebrations of the seasons of life—its highs and lows in love, loss, and despair, with nature as a primary and enduring metaphor into the 21st century. Her current works continue to explore female subjectivity, and the enflamed passions of living in an uncertain world. Feminist, poetic, and unapologetic, Snyder’s works offer tour de force moments of radicality.

- Jenni Sorkin
April 2022



Leopard Cloud, 1968
pencil, pastel, and wallpaper on paper
12 x 9 inches (30.4 x 22.8 cm)



Body and Soul, 1997-98
oil, acrylic, fabric, paper mache, glitter, straw, plastic grapes on canvas
66 x 78 inches (167.6 x 198.1 cm)