John Elderfield and Lauren Mahony discuss Helen Frankenthaler and her work from 1959 to 1962. That show marked an absolute change in the New York art world. And there was also a change in Helen’s work at the beginning of the 1960s, moving it toward the Color Field painting with which she would become most associated. It’s very interesting to me how the 1959–61 works in our show—coming between her celebrated soak-stain work of the 1950s and her Color Field paintings of the 1960s—have somehow slipped out of her history. LM

What was it like looking at the paintings with Helen when you were working on your...
Frankenthaler monograph [1989]? Did she seem nostalgic about the 1950s, or any other particular period, or was she able to look at the works objectively?

JEA bit of both. Helen Frankenthaler – Around the Clock with Red, 1983 – Image via beetleinabox.com. Early Life and Education. Helen Frankenthaler was born on December 12th in the year of 1928, in the heart of New York City. She was a daughter of Alfred Frankenthaler, a respected Supreme Court judge held in high regard both in and outside of the Big Apple borders. Rothko to Richter: Mark-Making in Abstract Painting from the Collection of Preston H. Haskell. Princeton University Art Museum, Princeton, NJ. Group.