

SHAMNOSKI

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Shamnoski Gallery Opens with “John Grillo: Collages 1952 – 1962”

November 13, 2025 – January 6, 2026 | 115 East 72nd Street, New York, NY

(New York, NY) — Shamnoski Gallery is proud to announce its **grand opening** and inaugural exhibition, **John Grillo: Collages 1952 – 1962**, on view from **November 13th, 2025 through January 6th, 2026** at its new Upper East Side home, 115 East 72nd Street. The exhibition, the first solo exhibition of John Grillo’s work in New York City in over a decade, marks the gallery’s rebrand from Projects 28 to Shamnoski Gallery, signaling a new chapter devoted to championing underrecognized postwar voices through thoughtful exhibitions and scholarly programming. A public **opening reception will be held on Thursday, November 13, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

John Grillo (1917–2014) was among the most dynamic and forward-looking artists of the Abstract Expressionist movement. After serving in Okinawa with the U.S. Navy during World War II, Grillo took advantage of the G.I. Bill and studied at the California School of Fine Arts (now the San Francisco Art Institute) **under major artists of the time such as Mark Rothko and Richard Diebenkorn**, transferring the explosive energy of Abstract Expressionism to the West Coast. In 1948, Grillo moved to New York City, the beating heart of the movement, to study under one of its most emblematic figures - Hans Hofmann. Almost immediately upon arriving in New York, Grillo became a part of the city’s vibrant postwar art scene and **developed a close relationship with Hofmann, whose emphasis on color, structure, and spatial tension - Hofmann's visual language - became foundation to Grillo's practice.** Grillo took classes with Hofmann both in New York City and in Provincetown in the summertime. By the early 1950s, Grillo was exhibiting widely and

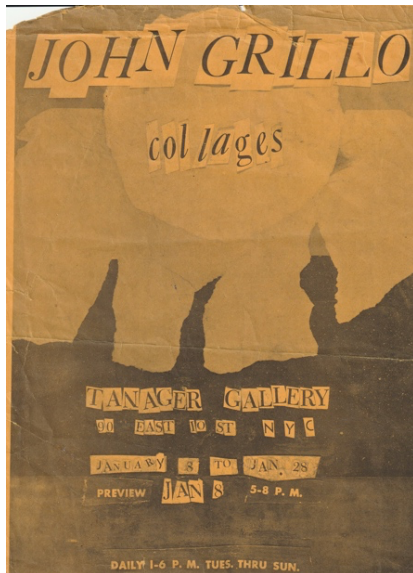


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earning recognition for his exuberant color and improvisational approach—qualities that placed him squarely within the vanguard of the New York School.

“Indulged in his love of pigment for its own sake to the fullest, the canvases and huge collages... seem hedonistic and full of joy as the best of Hofmann’s and are even more sensuous.” – April Kingsley, 1961

While Grillo’s canvases from this period are historically celebrated, “John Grillo: Collages 1952 – 1962” focuses on a **remarkable and rarely seen body of work**: his collages created during that decade. Constructed from torn and layered paper, pigment, and found materials, these pieces channel the same explosive energy of his paintings while expanding the language of abstraction beyond the canvas. They reveal an artist deeply engaged in material experimentation, exploring the intersections of gesture, texture, and form in ways that anticipated later developments in assemblage and mixed media. **One of the works on view was last exhibited in 1960 at the Tanager Gallery in New York, in a historic solo exhibition devoted to Grillo’s collages—underscoring the exceptional rarity of this presentation more than six decades later.**



(L): Tanager Gallery exhibition poster for “John Grillo Collages”, 1960. (R): John Grillo, Untitled, 1957, Mixed media collage on paper, 25 5/8 x 22 7/8 in. Courtesy of the Estate of John Grillo.

Grillo’s work is included in the permanent collections of major museums, including the **Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Guggenheim, and the Museum of Modern Art** affirming his lasting significance within the history of American modernism. His career spanned over 70 years as an accomplished painter, sculptor, lithographer, and educator.

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“Launching Shamnoski Gallery with an exhibition devoted to Grillo’s collages is both a tribute and a statement of intent,” says the gallery’s founder. “These works embody our mission: to rediscover and reintroduce crucial moments and figures in postwar art—works that shaped the trajectory of American abstraction but have too often been overlooked.”

“John Grillo: Collages 1952 – 1962” will be on view from **November 13th, 2025, through January 6th, 2026**, at Shamnoski Gallery, located at **115 East 72nd Street, New York, NY**. A public **opening reception will take place on Thursday, November 13th, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**