

ELAINE DE KOONING (1918-1989)

Lorraine

Signed lower right, "E de K"

oil on canvas

80 3/8 x 56 3/4 x 1 in. (81 1/8 x 57 1/4 x 2 in.)

204.15 x 144.15 x 2.54 cm (206.06 x 145.42 x 5.08 cm)

1963

45331

PROVENANCE:

With the Artist until her death
Elaine de Kooning Family Estate
Private Collection, by descent

EXHIBITION:

Graham Gallery, April 23 to May 11, 1963
West Palm Beach, Florida, Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, *Discovering Creativity: American Art Masters*, January 10 - March 17, 2024

LITERATURE:

Curtis, C. (2017), *A Generous Vision: The Creative Life of Elaine de Kooning*, Oxford University Press, pg. 149, N91; pg. 244

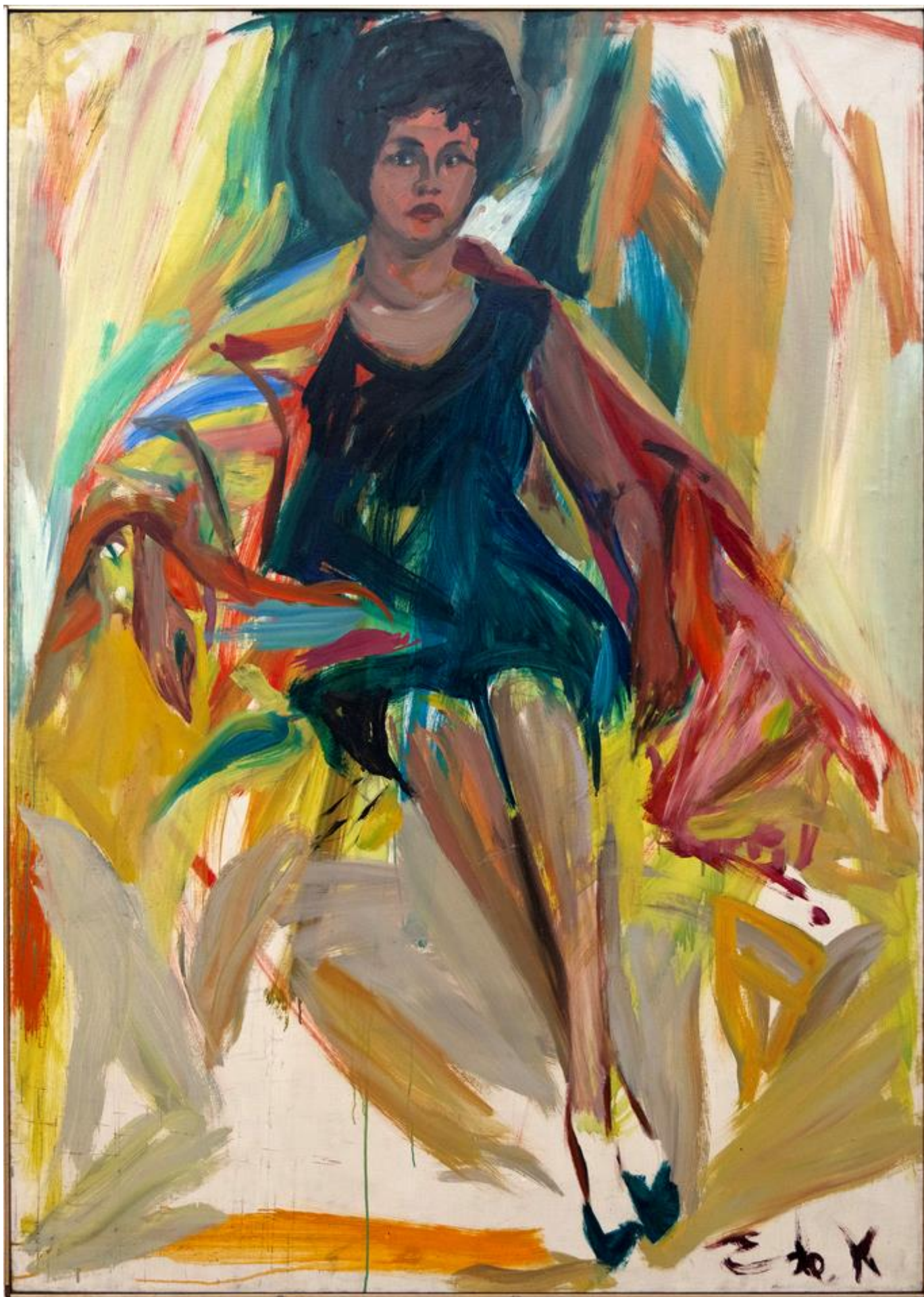
Willem de Kooning thought so little of portraits he purportedly called them, 'pictures little girls make.' As a woman of great pride and independence, nothing motivated Elaine de Kooning more. Her answer came in the form of her "faceless men" series of works executed with a rapid-fire, deft sketching of the subject's most prominent features and overlaid slashes of vivid, colorful paint in all directions. Often intended as gifts for close friends or painting demonstrations, Elaine's portraits allowed her to experiment with styles and techniques. Lorraine (Patterson) displays the bold and fearless attitude that landed her the commission of the century: a portrait of John F. Kennedy for the Harry S. Truman Library in Independence, Missouri.

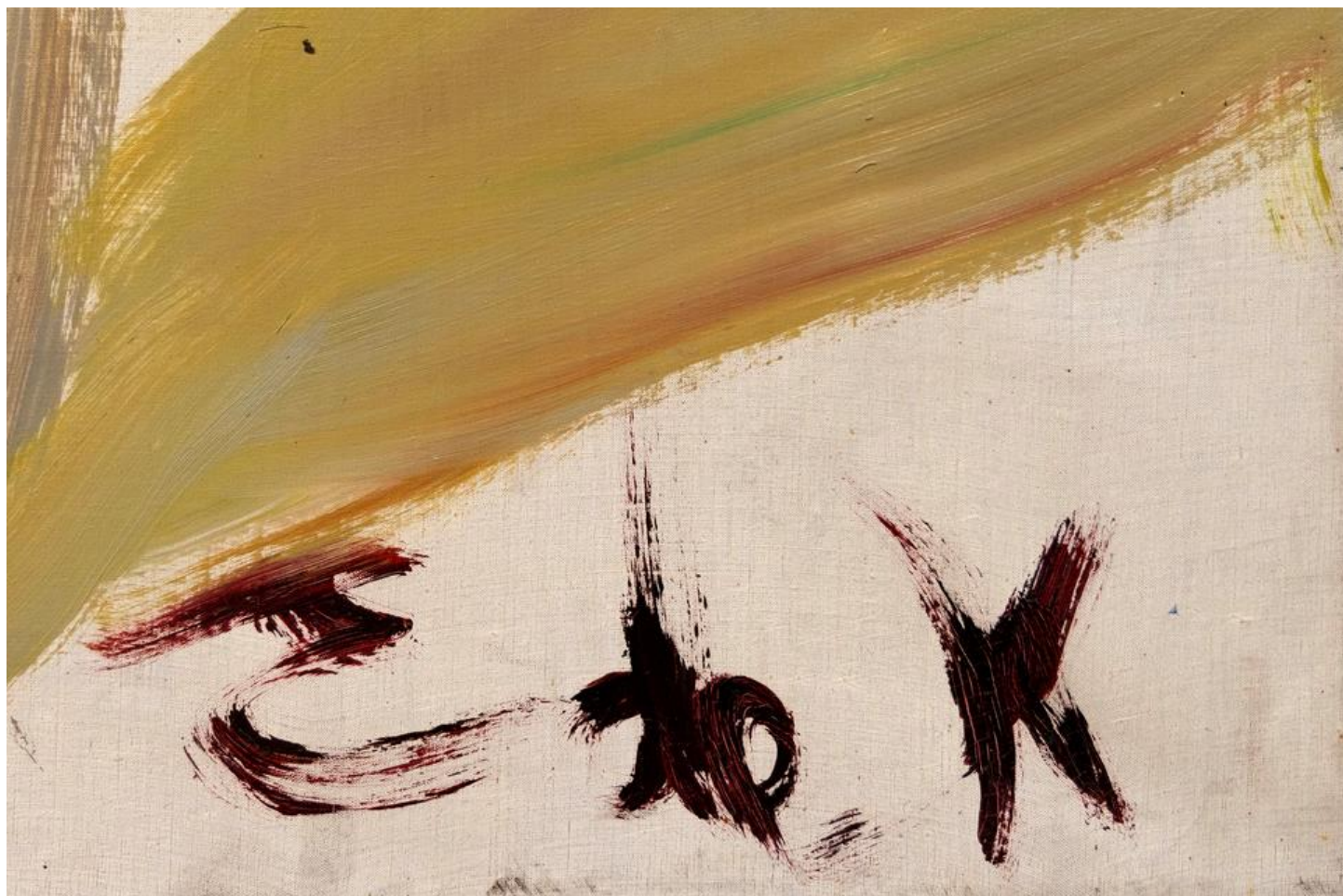
Elaine de Kooning, the wife of Willem de Kooning was a prolific and versatile painter, writer, and teacher. Although she was a major figure in both the Abstract Expressionist and American Figurative Expressionist movements of the 1940s and 1950s, de Kooning eschewed developing a singular style and instead painted in a range of modes from realism to abstraction. "Style is something I've always tried to avoid. I'm more interested in character," she said. Her paintings feature loose, thick brushstrokes in bold hues executed in an energetic, improvisational mode. "A painting to me is primarily a verb, not a noun," she famously declared, "an event first and only secondarily an image."

Highly noted for her skill as a portraitist, she often painted friends and contemporary figures, notably including a commission to paint President John F. Kennedy. Born on March 12, 1918 in Brooklyn, NY, she went on to study at Hunter College and the American Artists School. De Kooning quickly gained prominence in the burgeoning art

scene, becoming a member of the infamous Eighth Street Club alongside Franz Kline, Clyfford Still, and Hans Hofmann, solidifying her place within the canon of American Expressionism. She is regarded as being instrumental in developing contemporary American art, shaping young artists through several teaching positions held at influential institutions like the University of Pennsylvania and Yale University. De Kooning died on February 1, 1989 in Southampton, NY.

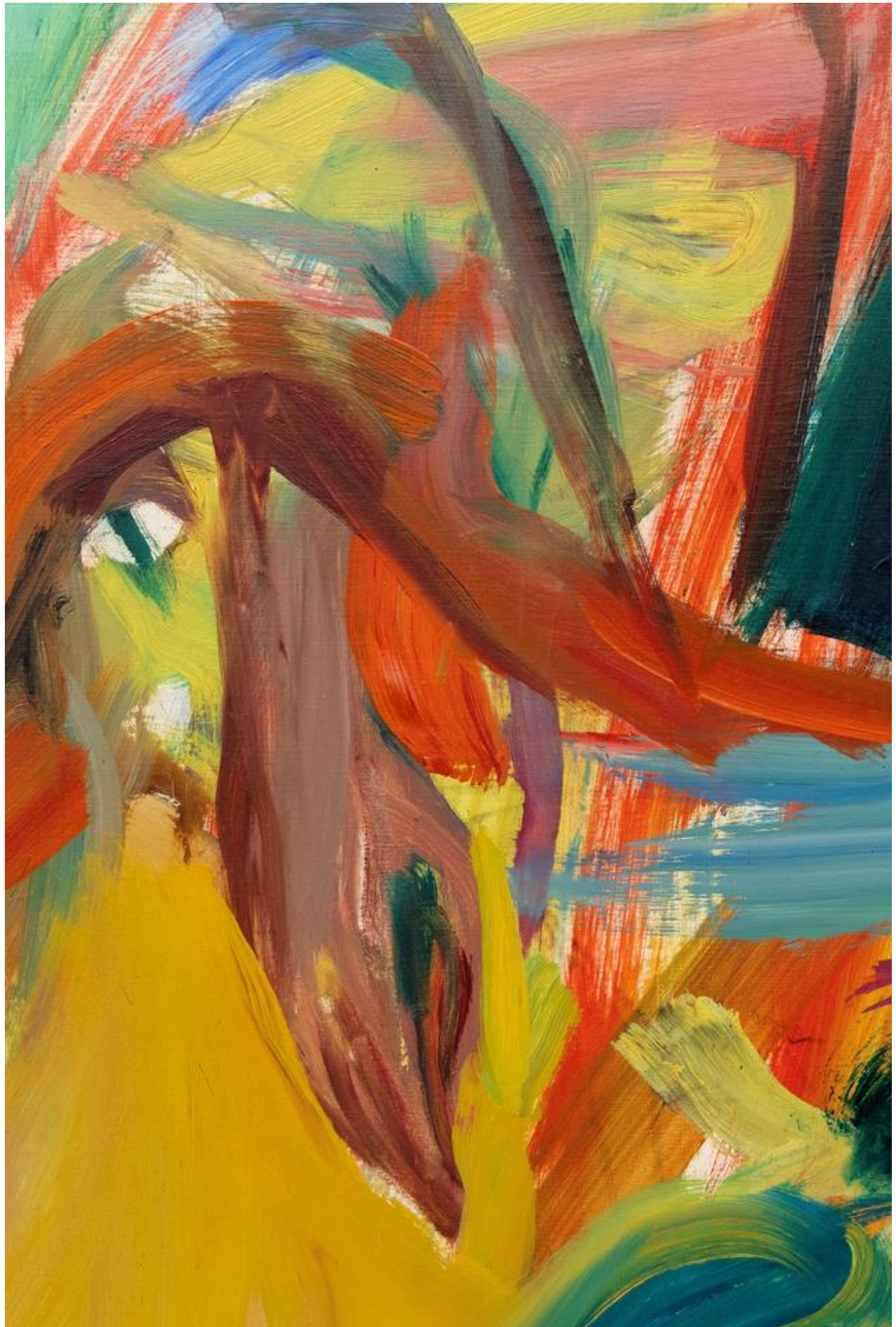
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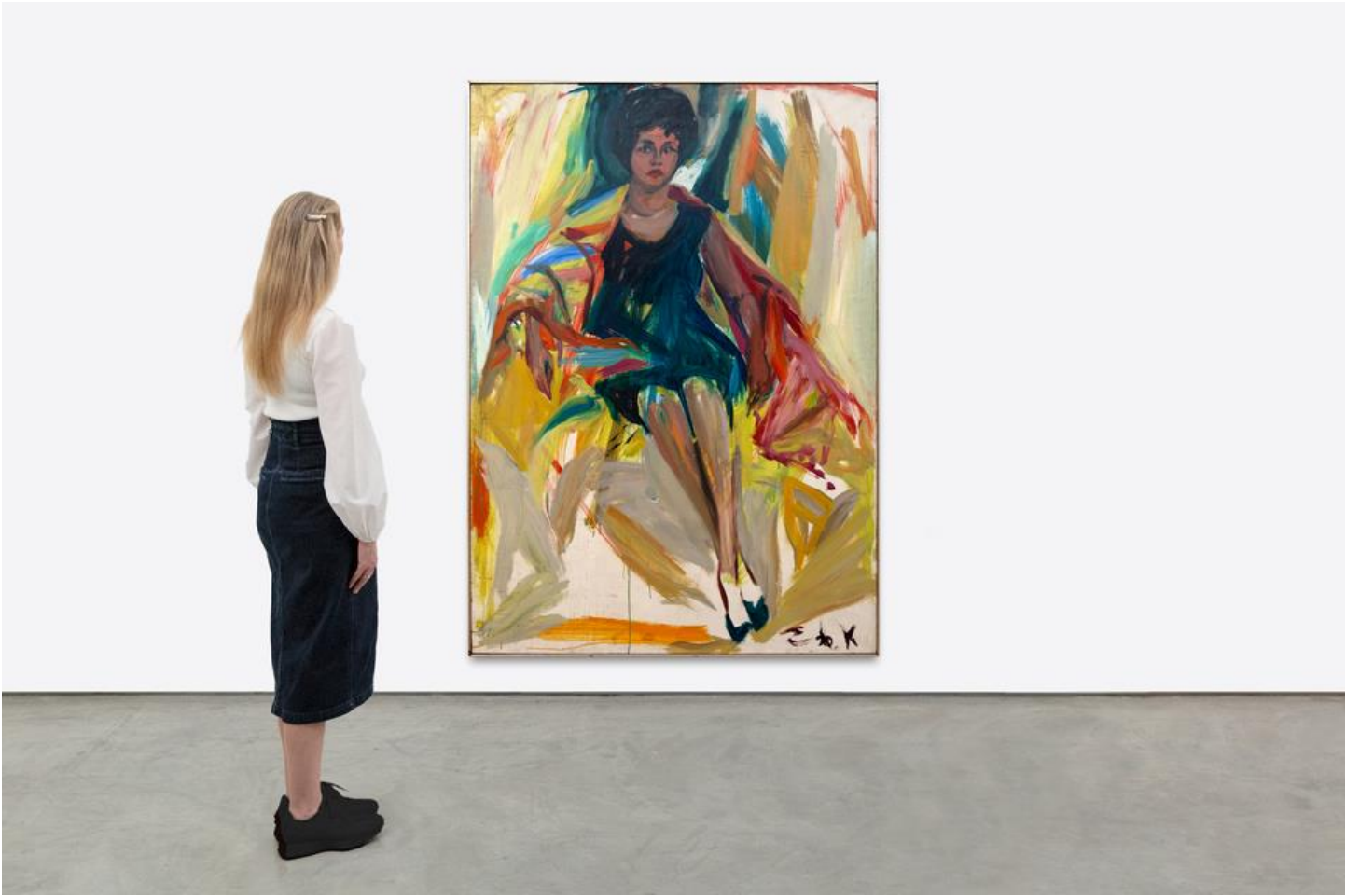












LOREINE
80" x 57" 1963 Ede K

8-11-11
W/M

49

1963
LOREINE
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6-P