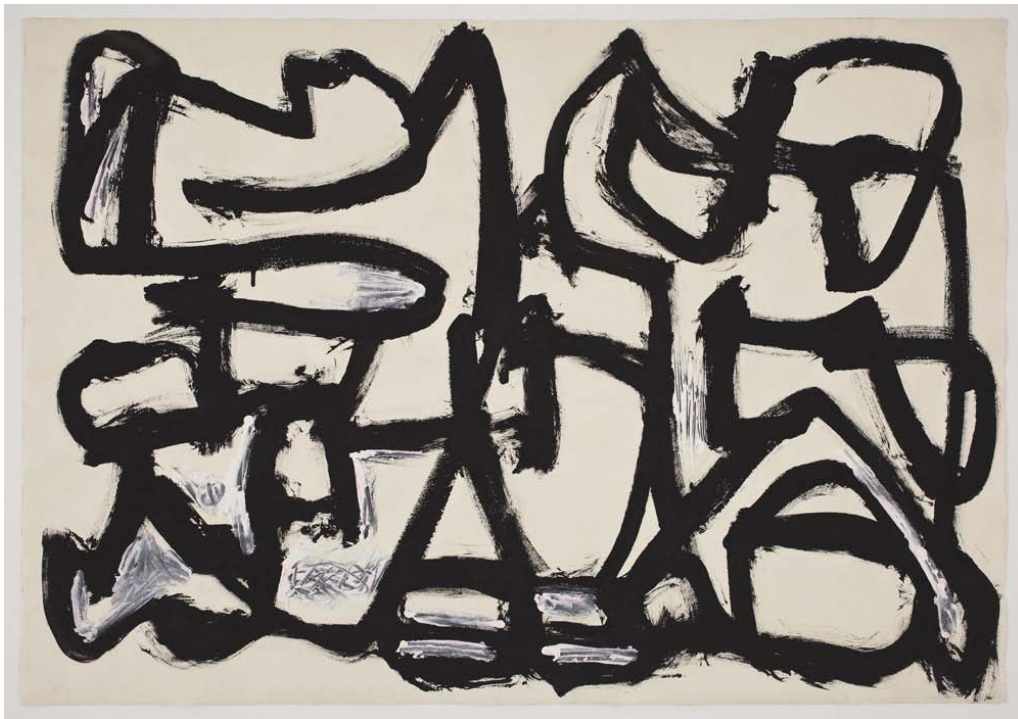


Frank, Peter. "HUFFPOST ARTS' HAIKU REVIEWS: David Smith." *The Huffington Post* (online), 13 May 2011.



**PHOTO:** DAVID SMITH, *Untitled*, 1952, Ink and gouache on paper, 29 7/8 x 42 13/16 inches

**WHAT:** Margo Leavin Gallery  
812 N. Robertson Blvd., West Hollywood  
Through May 14

**HAIKU:** David Smith thought of himself as a painter - often as a painter rather than a sculptor. No question but that his sculpture, called "drawing in space," derived from two-dimensional line- and mark-making. There are plenty of drawings in LACMA's Smith retrospective, but when one sees Smith's work on paper by itself, his compositional thinking, driven at once by painterly impulse and the structural soundness of an engineer, becomes forcefully clarified. Most of the work here is black and white and dates from the first half of the 1950s, when Smith was at his prime. Emphasizing line over mass, these drawings are little short of electric. Certain works generate and retain more power than others - he could draw a line better than he could drip one - but at their best they conflate Picasso, Klee, Miro, and Pollock with balletic confidence. - Peter Frank