

# ALMA THOMAS

**Alma Thomas**

*Abstract Expressionist Painter*

September 1891 - February 1978



ALMA WOODSEY THOMAS WAS AN AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTIST AND TEACHER WHO LIVED AND WORKED IN WASHINGTON, D.C., AND IS NOW RECOGNIZED AS AN IMPORTANT AMERICAN PAINTER OF THE 20TH CENTURY. THOMAS IS BEST KNOWN FOR HER COLORFUL, ABSTRACT PAINTINGS THAT SHE CREATED AFTER SHE RETIRED FROM A 35-YEAR TEACHING CAREER.

THOMAS' FIRST RETROSPECTIVE WAS IN 1966 (APRIL 24--MAY 17) AT THE GALLERY OF ART AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY.

IN 1972, AT THE AGE OF 81, THOMAS WAS THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN TO HAVE A SOLO EXHIBITION AT THE WHITNEY MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART.



**Alma Thomas**

*The Eclipse*

1970

Smithsonian American Art Museum



**Alma Thomas**

*Starry Night and the Astronauts*

1972

Art Institute of Chicago



**Alma Thomas**

*Resurrection*

1966

White House Collection



THOMAS IS RECOGNIZED AS THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN TO HAVE HER ARTWORK FEATURED IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND ENTER THEIR PERMANENT COLLECTION THANKS TO THE OBAMAS. **THE RESURRECTION** WAS IN A PLACE OF PROMINENCE IN THE OLD FAMILY DINING ROOM AND **SKYLIGHT** HUNG IN THE FIRST LADY'S PRIVATE OFFICE.

"THROUGH COLOR, I HAVE SOUGHT TO CONCENTRATE ON BEAUTY AND HAPPINESS, RATHER THAN MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN." -ALMA THOMAS