

ALMA THOMAS

Alma Thomas

Abstract Expressionist Painter

September 1891 - February 1978



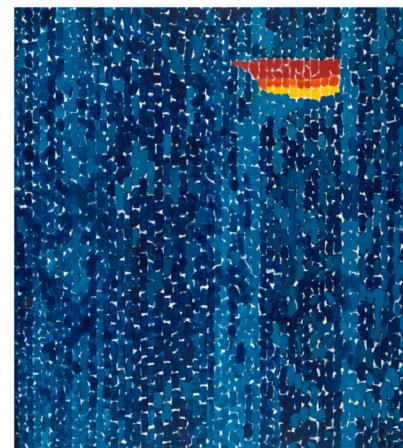
ALMA WOODSEY THOMAS WAS AN AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTIST AND TEACHER WHO LIVED AND WORKED IN WASHINGTON, D.C., AND IS NOW RECOGNIZED AS AN IMPORTANT AMERICAN PAINTER OF THE 20TH CENTURY. THOMAS IS BEST KNOWN FOR HER COLORFUL, ABSTRACT PAINTINGS THAT SHE CREATED AFTER SHE RETIRED FROM A 35-YEAR TEACHING CAREER.

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