



**Smithsonian Institution**

*Archives of American Art*

## **Biographical Accounts on Alma Thomas, circa 1950s-circa 1970s**

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## THE ARTIST-TEACHER

ALMA W. THOMAS--an Artist Teacher, received her B.S. and M.A. in Art and Art Education from Howard University and Columbia University Teachers College respectively. She continued her art education through: study at American University, studio work, and visits to the art centers of Europe.

Miss Thomas taught Art at Shaw Junior High School of many years and upon her retirement she was singled out by the Board of Education of the D.C. Schools as an "inspiring contributor." Though teaching was a full program it never prevented Miss Thomas from personal creativity nor from active participation in the art life of the city. She has been the Vice-President of Barnett-Aden Gallery since its founding, has exhibited in seventy different shows and has sponsored numerous programs in the arts for young people. Her art activity since her retirement from teaching has increased, that is -- "her retirement has been not from, but into art."

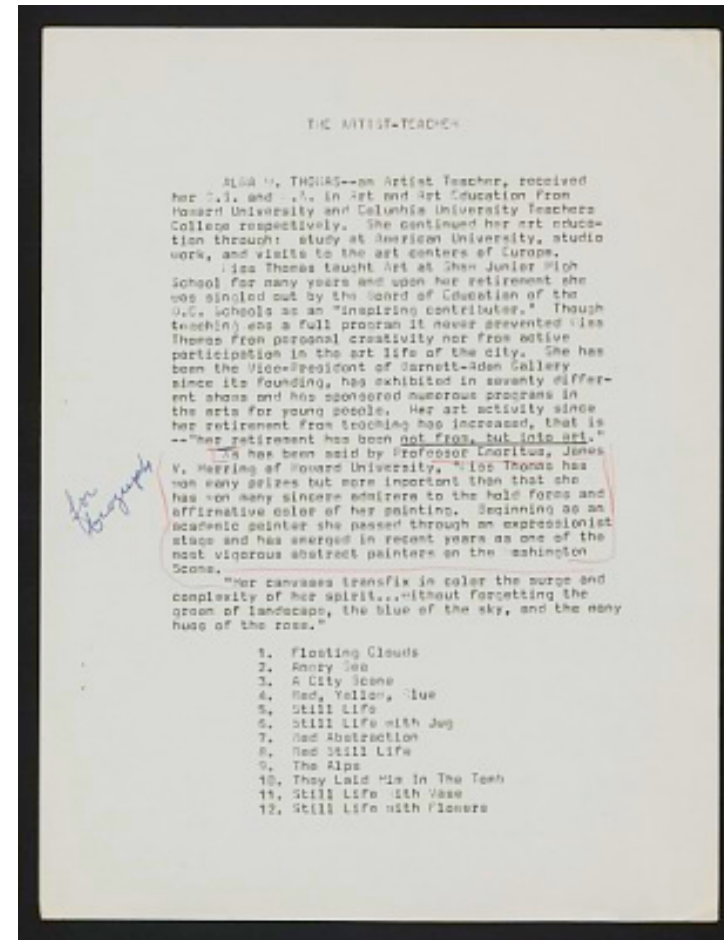
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As has been said by Professor Emeritus, James V. Herring of Howard University, "Miss Thomas has won many prizes but more important than that she has won many sincere admirers to the bold forms and affirmative color of her painting. Beginning as an academic painter she passed through an expressionist stage and has emerged in recent years as one of the most vigorous abstract painters on the Washington Scene."

"Her canvases transfix in color the surge and complexity of her spirit...without forgetting the green of landscape, the blue of the sky, and the many hues of the rose."

1. Floating Clouds
2. Angry Sea
3. A City Scene
4. Red, Yellow, Blue
5. Still Life
6. Still Life with Jug
7. Red Abstraction
8. Red Still Life
9. The Alps
10. They Laid Him In The Tomb
11. Still Life with Vase
12. Still Life with Flowers



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