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Autobiographical Writings by Alma Thomas, circa 1960s-circa 1970s

Extracted on Apr-23-2024 05:11:21

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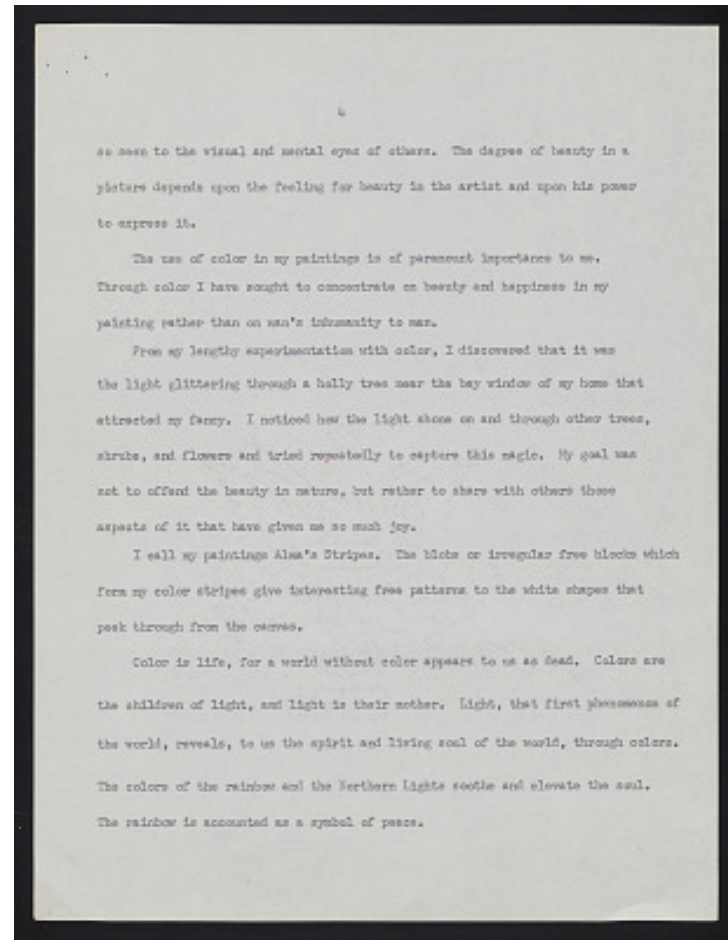
so seen to the visual and mental eyes of others. The degree of beauty in a picture depends upon the feeling for beauty in the artist and upon his power to express it.

The use of color in my paintings is of paramount importance to me. Through color I have sought to concentrate on beauty and happiness in my painting rather than on man's inhumanity to man.

From my lengthy experimentation with color, I discovered that it was the light glittering through a holly tree near the bay window of my home that attracted my fancy. I noticed how the light shone on and through other trees, shrubs, and flowers and tried repeatedly to capture this magic. My goal was not to offend the beauty in nature, but rather to share with others those aspects of it that have given me so much joy.

I call my paintings Alma's Stripes. The blobs or irregular free blocks which form my color stripes give interesting free patterns to the white shapes that peek through from the canvas.

Color is life, for a world without color appears to us as dead. Colors are the children of light, and light is their mother. Light, that first phenomenon of the world, reveals, to us the spirit and living soul of the world, through colors. The colors of the rainbow and the Northern Lights soothe and elevate the soul. The rainbow is accounted as a symbol of peace.



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