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Archives of American Art

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

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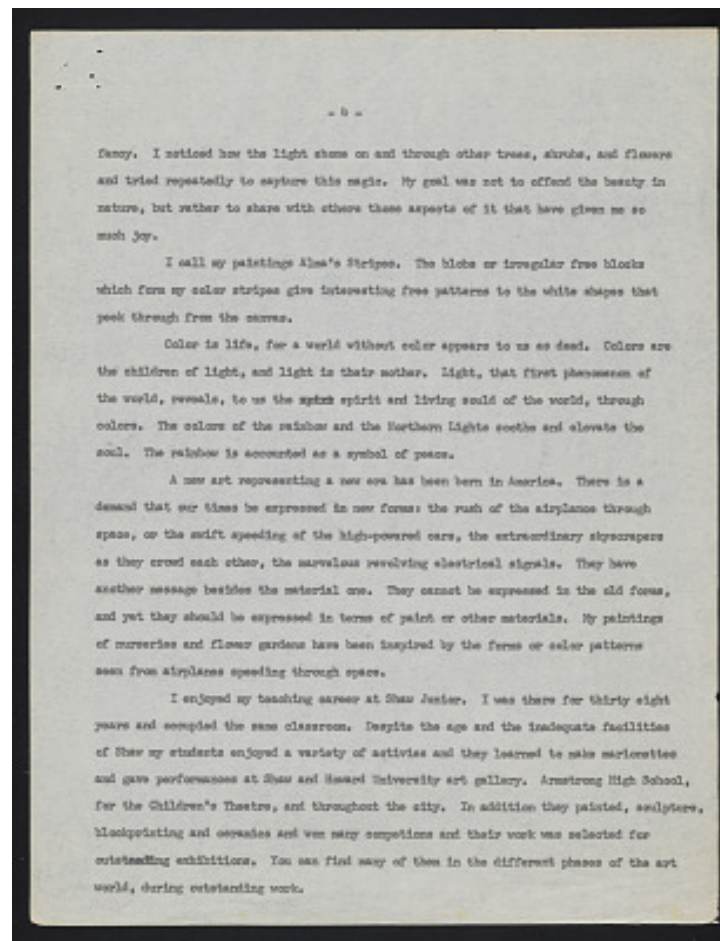
fancy. I noticed how the light shone on and through other trees, shrubs and flowers and tried repeatedly to capture this magic. My goal was not to offend the beauty in nature, but rather to share with others those aspects of it that have given me so much joy.

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~~ 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.

A new art representing a new era has been born in America. There is a demand that our times be expressed in new forms: the rush of the airplane through space, or the swift speeding of the high-powered cars, the extraordinary skyscrapers as they crowd each other, the marvelous revolving electrical signals. They have another message besides the material one. They cannot be expressed in the old forms, and yet they should be expressed in terms of paint or other materials. My paintings of nurseries and flower gardens have been inspired by the forms or color patterns seen from airplanes speeding through space.

I enjoyed my teaching career at Shaw Junior. I was there for thirty eight years and occupied the same classroom. Despite the age and inadequate facilities of Shaw my studies enjoyed a variety of activities and they learned to make marionettes and gave performances at Shaw and Howard University art gallery. Armstrong High School for the Children's Theatre, and throughout the city. In addition they painted, sculpture, blockprinting and ceramics and won many competitions and their work was selected for outstanding exhibitions. You can find many of them in the different phases of the art world, during outstanding work.



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