

Alma Thomas' Vivid, Nature-Inspired, Late-Life Abstractions Get Spotlight in Chelsea

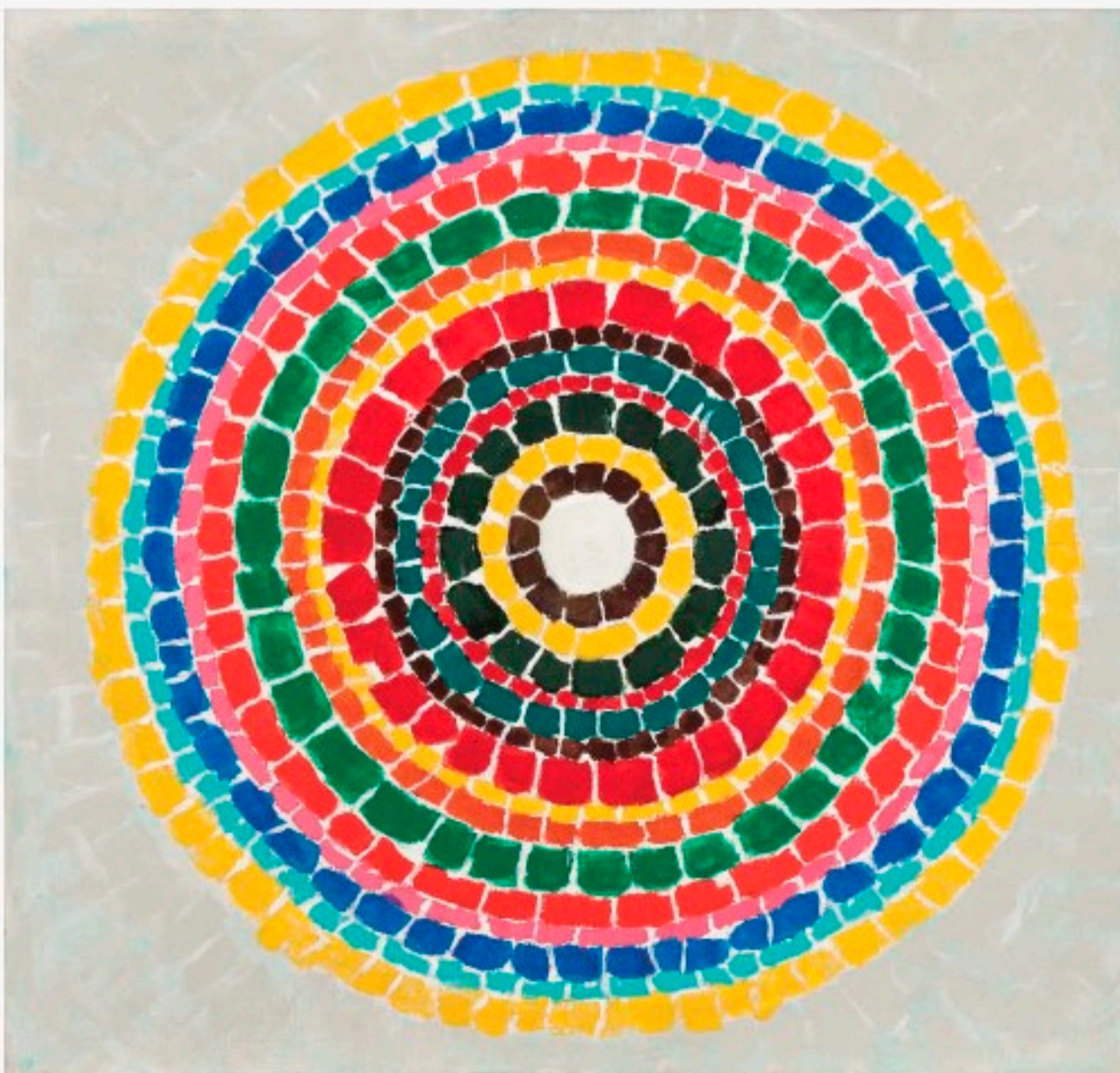
In 1972, at the age of 81, Alma Thomas became the first African-American woman artist to have a solo show at the Whitney Museum. Thomas, a force in the Washington Color School, was celebrated for creating her own distinct style of mosaic-like abstractions. She found most of her inspiration in nature and science—from the garden she viewed from her kitchen window to newly-discovered celestial bodies.

Yet, the artist did not develop this signature style until she she was in her 70s. A teacher and activist for many years prior, Thomas became a full-time painter upon retirement. After becoming acquainted with Gene Davis and Morris Louis, Thomas stopped creating representational works, finding that the beauty of color and abstraction helped transcend the daily struggles and issues of social injustice.

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

The artist's solo show "Moving Heaven and Earth" is on view at Michael Rosenfeld Gallery through May 16.

See you at the gallery!



Alma Thomas, *Untitled*, 1968, oil on canvas. Courtesy of Michael Rosenfeld Gallery LLC, New York.



Alma Thomas, *Rainbow*, 1978, acrylic on cardboard. Courtesy of Michael Rosenfeld Gallery LLC, New York.



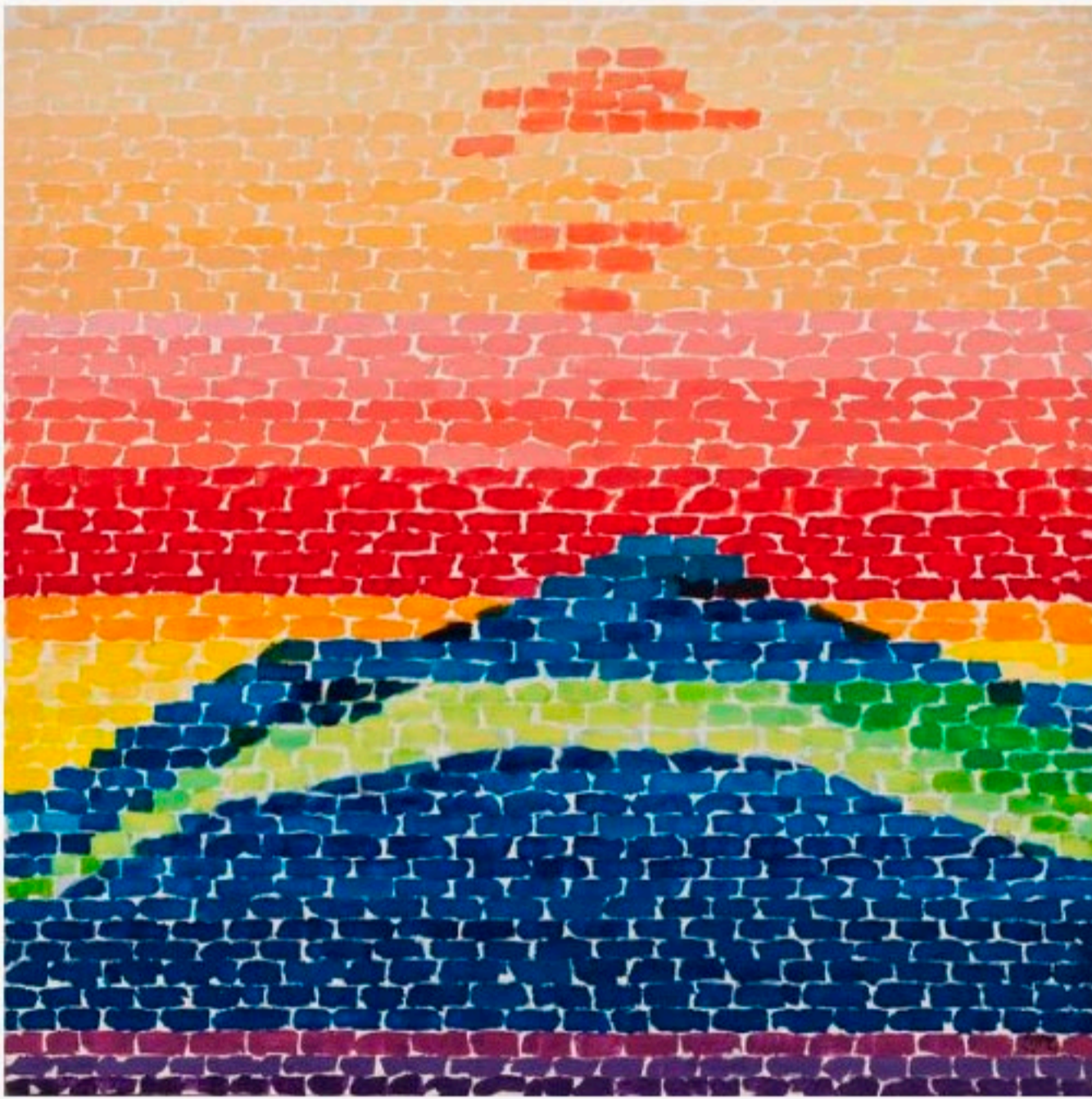
Alma Thomas, *Jonquils*, 1973, acrylic on canvas. Courtesy of Michael Rosenfeld Gallery LLC, New York.



Alma Thomas, *Fall Approaching*, 1969, acrylic and graphite on canvas. Courtesy of Michael Rosenfeld Gallery LLC, New York.



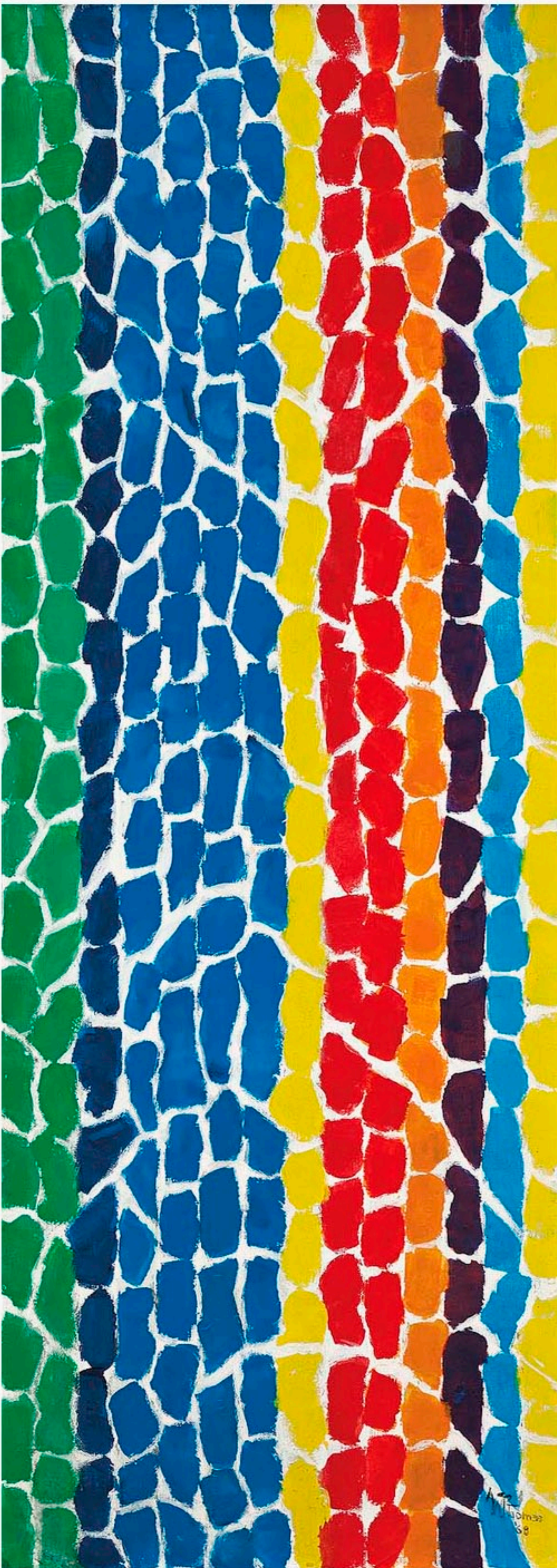
Alma Thomas, *Azaleas in Spring*, 1968, acrylic on canvas. Courtesy of Michael Rosenfeld Gallery LLC, New York.



Alma Thomas, *Apollo 12 "Splash Down,"* 1970, acrylic and graphite on canvas. Courtesy of Michael Rosenfeld Gallery LLC, New York.



Alma Thomas, *Scarlet Sage Dancing a Whirling Dervish*, 1976, acrylic on canvas. Courtesy of Michael Rosenfeld Gallery LLC, New York.



Alma Thomas, *Spring No. 1*, 1968, acrylic on canvas. Courtesy of Michael Rosenfeld Gallery LLC, New York.