

Tang Museum To Premiere 'Alma Thomas' February 6

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. — The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College will premiere "Alma Thomas," on view February 6–June 5.

Examining the artistic evolution of Thomas, the exhibition will feature works from every period in her career, including rarely exhibited watercolors and early abstractions, as well as her signature canvases drawn from a variety of private and public collections. The exhibition is organized by the Tang Teaching Museum and The Studio Museum in Harlem.

"Alma Thomas" will join other presentations at the Tang Museum exploring the practice of Modern and contemporary artists whose work defies conventional categorization. Most recently, the Tang organized exhibitions on artists Nicholas Krushenick, Corita Kent, Terry Adkins and Nancy Grossman.

"While Alma Thomas had her supporters, she was largely underappreciated during the majority of her career. It is good to see a resurgence of interest in her work in recent years. Our exhibition will focus on the sweep of her career and practice, tracing her evolution as she found her mature artistic voice in the late 1960s and 70s," said Tang Museum Dayton Director Ian Berry, also co-curator of the exhibition. "We will examine Thomas's work through different series, including early Expressionist watercolors to vibrant, large paintings featuring what would become her signature bold style."

"Alma Thomas's work provides an exciting opportunity for a new collaboration between The Studio Museum and the Tang," says

Lauren Haynes, associate curator, permanent collection, The Studio Museum in Harlem. "Her work incorporates diverse influences and artistic traditions that make her a pioneering figure in American art, and we are thrilled to galvanize renewed interest in her work and life to introduce her unique vision to a broad public."

Alma Thomas (1891–1978) focused on her artistic career after retiring as a school teacher at the age of 69. She charted her own course as an African American woman within Washington D.C.'s largely white and male mid-Twentieth Century artistic community. Her own highly personal style expanded upon traditional Abstract Expressionist or Washington Color School practices, and was developed through experimentation with abstraction, color, line and pattern.

She often cited natural elements as inspiration, and her signature style reflects the influences of Henri Matisse, Josef

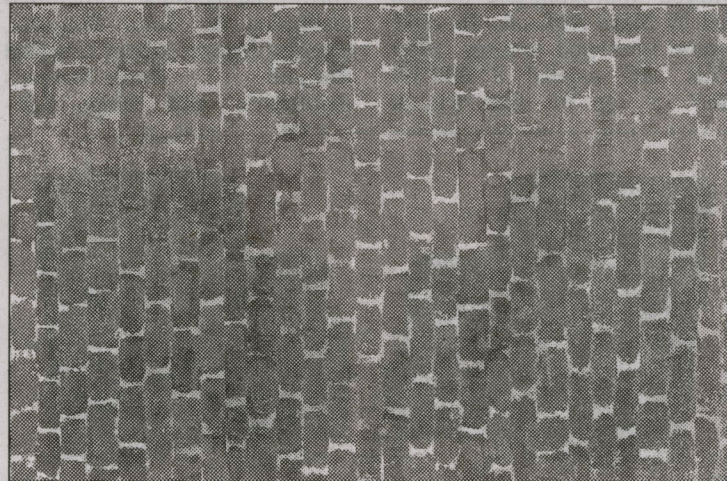
Albers and Wassily Kandinsky — featuring loosely painted yet meticulously constructed canvases, filled with latticework of bright color creating patterns from negative space.

The exhibition will lead visitors through Thomas's practice, focusing each gallery on a particular way of making. Highlights include "Breeze Rustling Through Fall Flowers" and "Wind, Sunshine and Flowers," both 1968 acrylics on canvas, along with "Starry Night and the Astronauts," a 1972 acrylic on canvas.

A comprehensive catalog will accompany the exhibition, featuring new essays on Thomas's work and legacy. The exhibition is curated by Berry and Haynes.

After its run at the Tang, "Alma Thomas" will travel to The Studio Museum July 14–October 30.

The museum is at 815 North Broadway. For information, <https://tang.skidmore.edu> or 518-580-8080.



"Deep Red Roses Chant" by Alma Thomas, 1972, acrylic on canvas, 20 1/8 by 28 1/8 inches; courtesy of Michael Rosenfeld Gallery, New York and the Tang Teaching Museum.

— Services

MASTER ART RESTORER & CONSERVATOR

OF
Paintings – Watercolors
Frames

TO
Museums & Private Collectors

LEONARD E. SASSO, LLC

21 Salem Lane,
South Salem, N.Y. 10590

914-763-2121

*Call to find out why my
prices are higher*

FINE ART APPRAISALS

adelaidefineart.com

203.662.0244

Ann Marenakos, ASA
American Society of Appraisers
Accredited & Compliant

Serving NY NJ CT RI MA

Lawrence J. Zinzi

TIFFANY STUDIOS REPAIR

*Restoration of leaded shades, bases & desk pieces
Straightening, gold plating, patination, wiring, etc*

Quality services since 1971

Please call 718-798-0193

To Place An Ad Call 203-426-8036



... the Briwax alternative!

*Cleans * Stains * Polishes*

Classic Wax – made in the UK

Toluene Free, Toluene Safe, Always !!!

Fine European Finishing Waxes

www.Lustersheen.com

866-343-3377

