

‘A Maze of Art Endures in the Shadow of Towers’

By ROBERTA SMITH

Michael Rosenfeld Gallery
100 11th Avenue, at 19th Street, Chelsea
Through May 16



Photo by Philip Greenberg for The New York Times

Alma Thomas (1897-1978) trained as an artist, worked as a public-school teacher in Washington and, once retired, devoted the last two decades of her life to making mosaiclike abstractions in step with their time. Surveyed in 29 canvases and watercolors, her dappled fields, stripes and concentric rings of color bring an energetic bluntness and unencumbered joy to the usual refinements of Color Field and Minimalism. In February the White House website showed its refurbished Old Family Dining Room with a recently acquired Thomas hanging in pride of place — the first artwork in its collection by an African-American woman. Her place in the history of postwar painting awaits definition.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/17/arts/design/10-galleries-to-visit-in-chelsea.html?ref=design>



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