

ART REVIEW
Isaac Mizrahi Unbound at
the Jewish Museum



ART REVIEW
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High Fashion and High Art

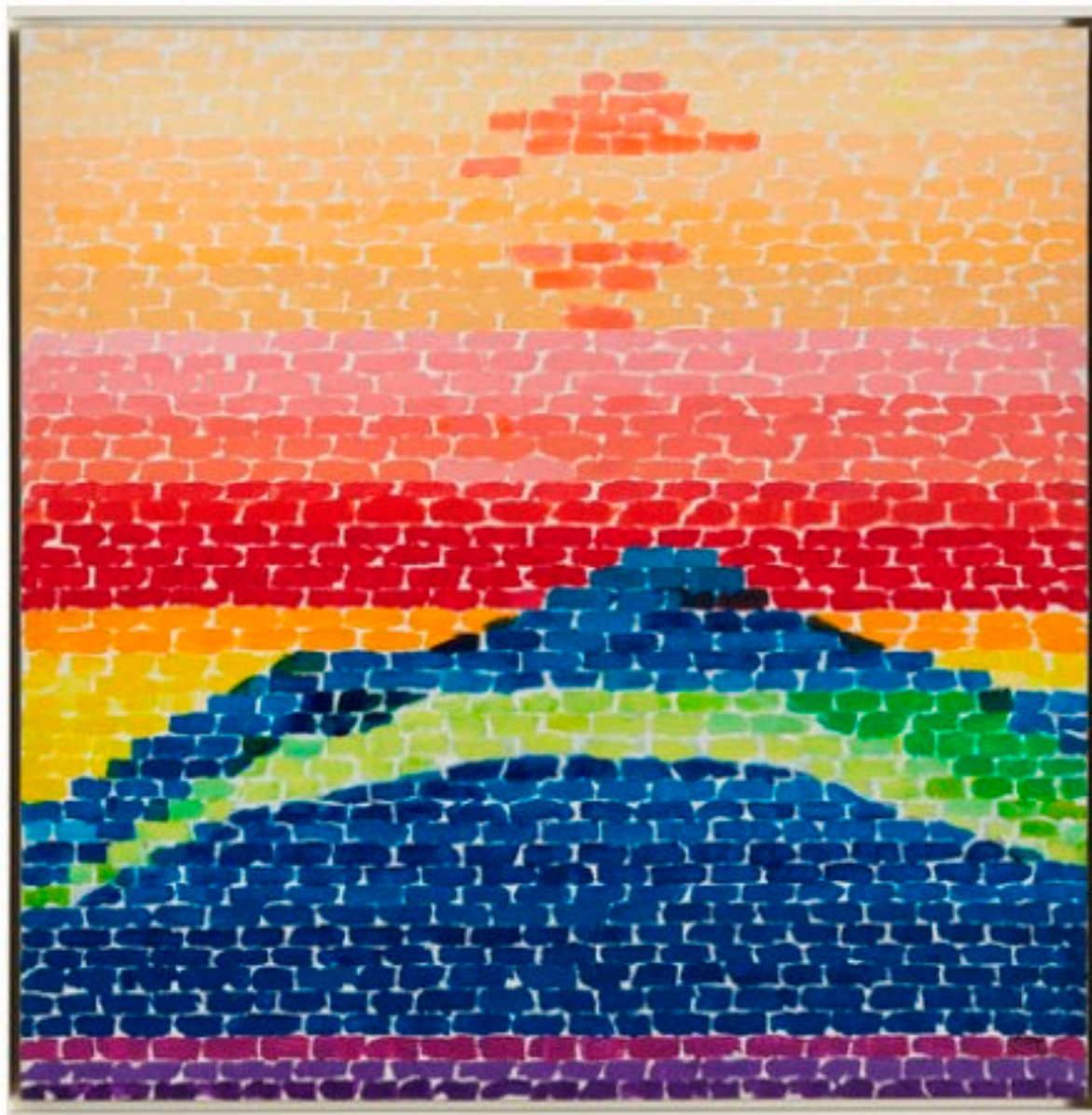
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ART & DESIGN

Alma Thomas: Abstractions Inspired by a Firm Grasp of Reality

By HOLLAND COTTER MARCH 16, 2016



"Apollo 12 'Splash Down,'" from 1970. Alma Thomas

Alma Thomas (1891-1978) was born in Georgia, educated in Washington and worked as an art teacher in the public schools there for almost 40 years. During this time, she pursued a parallel career as a painter, participating in Lois Mailou Jones's salon for African-American artists and studying with Jacob Kainen at American University.

When she retired from teaching at 69, she became a full-time artist, producing bright-colored paintings in a loosely brushed,

mosaic-like style. The work was abstract but was inspired by the world around her: the trees and flowers of her Washington neighborhood and the music in its streets. In 1972, she had a solo show at the Whitney Museum of American Art; one of her pictures currently hangs in the Obama White House. A retrospective is now at [the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery](#) at Skidmore College, in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., through June 5, and moves on to the Studio Museum in Harlem this summer. (518-580-8080; tang.skidmore.edu.)