

# The New York Times

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NEW YORK, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2001  
WEEKEND FINE ARTS/ LEISURE

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## Art Listings

Galleries: 57th Street

\* **ALMA W. THOMAS**, "Phantasmagoria: Major Paintings From the 1970'S," Michael Rosenfeld Gallery, 24 West 57th Street, (212) 247-0082 (through Nov. 3).

With each new showing, Thomas's paintings look fresher and livelier, their totally abstract vocabulary of color markings conveying the spirit of a vibrant inner life. After decades of teaching art in the public schools of Washington while doing realist still lifes on her own, she found her voice as an abstract color painter. She pared down her style from tight realist brushwork to geometric, mosaiclike dabs and patches of high-energy hues. Laid down in irregular allover patterns on solid grounds that show through in webs and networks, her late works are sophisticated color structures that still reveal a debt to the natural world. Joy may be in short supply elsewhere, but it resonates in these paintings (Glueck).

\* denotes a highly recommended show.

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**MICHAEL ROSENFELD GALLERY**  
**24 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019**  
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