

Alma W. Thomas: Everything Is Beautiful

Upper-Level Galleries • February 25–June 5, 2022

Co-organized by The Columbus Museum and the Chrysler Museum of Art



Alma W. Thomas (American, 1891–1978). *Air View of Spring Nursery*, 1966. Acrylic on canvas. The Columbus Museum, Columbus, GA. © 2021 Alma W. Thomas

Alma W. Thomas: Everything Is Beautiful will provide a comprehensive overview of the artist's long life (1891–1978) with approximately one hundred works, including her rarely seen theatrical designs and beloved abstract paintings. The exhibition will track Thomas's artistic journey from semi-rural Georgia to international recognition, demonstrating how her artistic practices extended to every facet of her life—from community service and teaching to gardening and dress. A trailblazer, Thomas was both the first Black American woman to have a solo exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art and to have a painting enter the White House collection.

Unlike a traditional biography, the exhibition will be organized around multiple themes from Thomas's experience. These themes include the context of Thomas's Washington Color School cohort, the creative communities connected to Howard University (Kamala Harris's alma mater), and peers who protested museums that failed to represent artists of color.

Aflac is proud to sponsor *Alma W. Thomas: Everything Is Beautiful*. The exhibition has also been made possible in part by major support from the Henry Luce Foundation, the Andy Warhol Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.



The Frist Art Museum is supported in part by

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**Frist Art
Museum**

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Tennessee State Standards

Visual Arts Standards

By analyzing, interpreting, and evaluating artworks, students fulfill the Respond domain of the Tennessee Fine Arts Standards. Synthesizing information and contextualizing the works applies to the Connect domain. The Present domain may involve selecting work for a portfolio, planning, creating, and displaying art to inform peers on social issues, or students selecting one work of art to leave at school to display. Teachers may address the Create domain by using the exhibition as inspiration to generate, conceptualize, develop, and refine artistic work.

U.S. History

US.80: Describe the significant events in the struggle to secure civil rights for African Americans, including:

- March on Washington, D.C.

First Grade

Earth and Space Sciences

1.ESS1: Earth's Place in the Universe

- 1) Use observations or models of the sun, moon, and stars to describe patterns that can be predicted.
- 2) Observe natural objects in the sky that can be seen from Earth with the naked eye and recognize that a telescope, used as a tool, can provide greater detail of objects in the sky.
- 3) Analyze data to predict patterns between sunrise and sunset, and the change of seasons.

Life Sciences

1.LS1: From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

- 1) Recognize the structure of plants (roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits) and describe the function of the parts (taking in water and air, producing food, making new plants).
- 2) Illustrate and summarize the life cycle of plants.
- 3) Analyze and interpret data from observations to describe how changes in the environment cause plants to respond in different ways.

Frist resources (details at FristArtMuseum.org)

Availability varies; details subject to change

- Art Trunk activity and video
- Educator guide
- Exhibition catalogue (available for purchase in the gift shop)
- Exhibition texts online (translatable/enlargeable on your own device)
- FristKids videos and activities
- Virtual tours

Programs will be announced at FristArtMuseum.org/events.