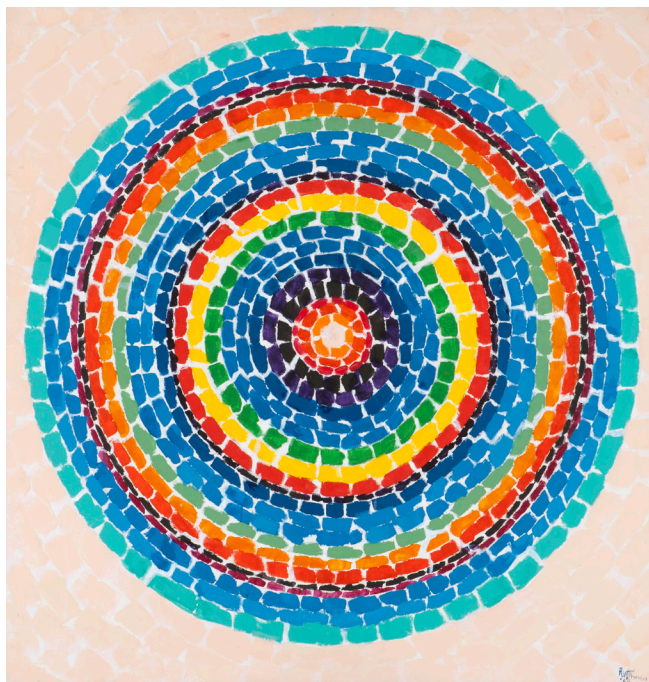


Art Trunk Alma W. Thomas–Inspired Collage

2nd Grade–Adult

Frist Art Museum
919 Broadway
Nashville, TN 37203
FristArtMuseum.org/art-trunks



Alma W. Thomas (American, 1891–1978). *Wind Dancing with Spring Flowers*, 1969. Acrylic on canvas. Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, purchased through a gift from Evelyn A. and William B. Jaffe, Class of 1964H, by exchange, 2016.5 G.1994.20.91



Alma W. Thomas (American, 1891–1978). *Air View of a Spring Nursery*, 1966. Acrylic on canvas. The Columbus Museum, museum purchase and gift of the National Association of Negro Business Women, and the artist, G.1979.53

This activity is inspired by the exhibition *Alma W. Thomas: Everything Is Beautiful*. Alma W. Thomas is known for her paintings in which colorful paint pats are layered to form stripes and **concentric** circles. Inspired by nature and outer space, Thomas's rectangular brushstrokes create **abstract** compositions.

Referencing the holly tree outside of her window, Thomas would employ **negative space** by leaving the white of the canvas between her brushstrokes to imitate the light that would filter between the leaves of the tree.

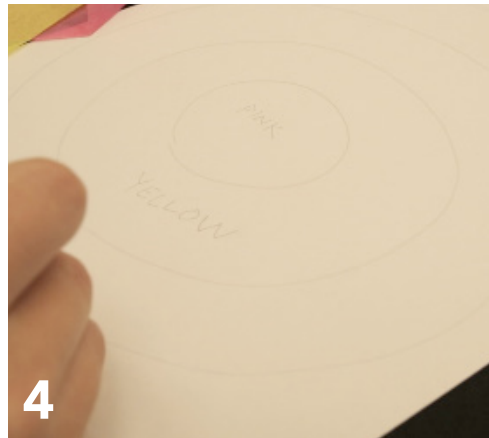
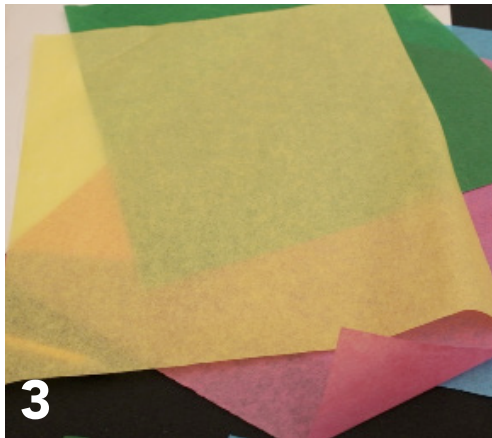
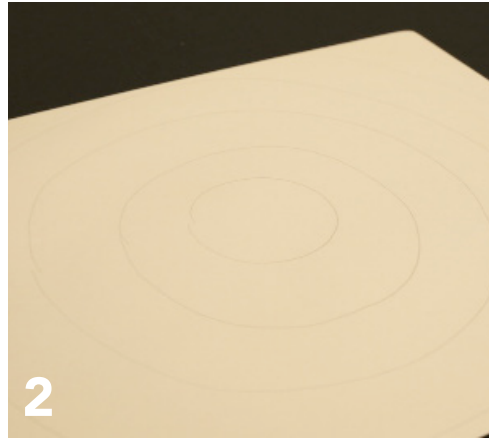
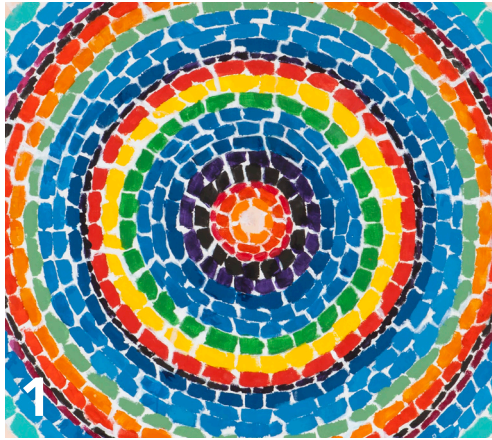
Close examinations of Thomas's paintings have revealed that she would use a pencil to annotate her canvas before she started painting, using her knowledge of color theory to plan how and where she would use colors.

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 for the Visual Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Objective

Use the materials provided to create a paper collage inspired by Alma W. Thomas's paintings.

Materials

- A pencil (optional)
- Off-white cardstock or construction paper
- A variety of colorful tissue papers
- Scissors (optional)
- A glue stick

Steps

Legs

1. Look closely at the reproductions of Alma W. Thomas's paintings on the front of this sheet. Observe patterns, how brushstrokes are placed, the artist's color choices, and what the paintings represent.
2. Plan your design. You may choose to sketch your design in pencil on your cardstock or construction paper
3. Select your colors of tissue paper. You can use different colors or explore a **monochromatic** color scheme instead.
4. Think about where the colors will go. You may choose to use a pencil to assign each color to a specific area of your design.
5. Tear your colorful tissue paper into rectangles that mimic Thomas's paint pats, or use scissors to cut the tissue paper instead.
6. Glue the tissue paper pieces to your cardstock or construction paper. Experiment with layering the tissue paper to create new colors.

Glossary

Abstract: expressing ideas and emotions by using elements such as colors and lines without attempting to create a realistic picture

Concentric: having a common center

Monochromatic: having or consisting of one color or hue

Negative space: the space around and between the subject(s) of an image