

## Alma Thomas (1891-1978)



Alma Thomas was born in Georgia but her family moved to Washington D.C. when she was a young child. Her parents filled the home with interesting people to help educate Alma and her sisters: teachers, artists, and musicians. In her life time she saw huge changes happen. There were no cars when she was born- people traveled by horse and buggy. At the end of her lifetime, men were traveling to the moon in rocket ships.

Thomas taught art at a public junior high school for 38 years in Washington D.C. When she retired, she decided it was time to paint for herself.

She always loved nature and her paintings reflect that joy. She paints in an abstract style, but her brush strokes capture the shimmering light on leaves moving in the wind.

When Thomas started to paint, the world was watching man land on the moon for the first time.

Many of her paintings reflect the wonder and awe of space exploration: *Blastoff*, *Mars Dust*, *Apollo 12 Splashes Down*, *The Eagle has Landed*, and *Man Walking on the Moon*.

She had a great sense of humor and even incorporated the comic character Snoopy into her art work: *Snoopy Gets a Glimpse of Mars* and *Snoopy's Vision of Mars*.

One of her most famous paintings is *Resurrection*. It was chosen by President and Mrs Obama to hang in the dining room of the White House. It was the first painting to ever be displayed in the White House by an African American Woman.