



The Eclipse by Alma Thomas



Alma Thomas

1891-1978

Alma Thomas was an African-American artist and art teacher. She taught for thirty five years. After retirement she embarked on a life as a fine artist. She became an unintentional inspiration to women, African Americans and elderly people with her artistic accomplishments achieved in her 70s..

From her humble kitchen top easel she created distinctive works that established her as a major American painter of the 20th century. Her style included exuberant colors, abstract shapes, and patterns inspired from nature.

Questions:

1. While abstract, Thomas's paintings evolved from nature. What is the natural inspiration for the example of Thomas's on the left? How do you know?
2. As Thomas was an art educator before becoming a well known and successful artist. Have you ever asked your art teacher if he or she creates art outside of the classroom?
3. Look at a tile mosaic and then compare it to Thomas's work. What do they have in common?