**Alma Thomas Acrylics Lesson Plan**

**Grades K-5**

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| White Mixed Media Paper - 1 per student | Paint Palette - 1 per student |
| Circle Stencil – 1 per student | Paint Brush - 1 per student |
| #2 Pencil – 1 per student | Small cup with water - 1 per student |
| Acrylic Paint – 1 pump of each color | Paper towel – 2 pieces per student |

**Project Goals**

Students will explore the art of the Alma Thomas, by responding to a range of artworks through slide show, open discussion and participating in a hands-on art project. They will gain an appreciation of Thomas’ work by creating an acrylic painting that will replicate “The Eclipse.” Students will focus on Thomas’ use of vivid, primary colors; purposeful use of white space; and abstract expression. Finally, student projects will incorporate Thomas’ preferred medium: acrylic.

**Preparation**

* Confirm the supplies on the list above are on the table and there is enough for your class.

**Presentation**

* Do a QUICK presentation! Present the Slides and briefly talk about background information – discuss Thomas’ biography with a focus on her artistic style and influences. Thomas is known for her large-scale abstract paintings comprised of rhythmic marks of exuberant color. Inspired by nature, recent discoveries in the sciences, and her own observations of earthly and celestial phenomena, Thomas’ work was devoid of overt political content. Her dedication to abstraction reflected her belief that modern art at its best could transcend political and historical concerns. “The use of color in my paintings is of paramount importance to me. Through color I have sought to concentrate on beauty and happiness in my painting rather than on man’s inhumanity to man.” – Alma Thomas

**Project steps**

* Set up the student’s area with a table cover to help prevent getting paint on the tables.
* Give each student: a piece of mixed media paper, #2 pencil, circle stencil, paint brush, paint palette with paint, small cup of water and paper towel.
* **Have students write their name on the back of their paper.**
* Have each student start with the paper a vertical position (portrait style).
* Have each student start by using the circle stencil and pencil to sketch a circle anywhere on the paper
* Fill the circle in with the darkest blue paint.
* Starting with their darkest colors first, have students begin painting.
* Students will use their paintbrush to paint short strokes in a circular motion around the blue circle.
* Encourage the students to use larger strokes using the broadest part of the brush.
* Colors will be repeated. Suggest that students use the same color in succession. This will prevent colors from blending.

**Finishing up**

* Artwork should be placed on the drying rack to dry.

**Labels and Display**

* Each group of volunteers will be given labels with the names of the students in their classroom.
* Place the label with the student’s name on the bottom, right corner of the artwork.
* Display outside the classroom. Verify with your teacher where they would like them.
* Be sure the project is then stored away for STREAM Night/portfolios once they are taken down.