

These activities for children ages four and up can be done with teachers, parents, and caregivers at home or in a classroom.

Look closely

- What colors do you see?
- Can you find different shades of one color (e.g. light blue, dark blue, etc.)?
- Use your arm as an imaginary paintbrush to show how you think the artist painted the different colors.
- What do the colors and marks remind you of?
- How did she arrange and group the colors together?

Learn

Alma Thomas made this painting after watching leaves out her window. Thomas painted bright colors on strips of paper, then taped and stapled the pieces together so she could move and change which colors went next to each other. She thought carefully about where she placed colors and how they looked next to one another.

Create a color composition

This can be done by yourself or with a group.

Suggested materials: white paper; markers, crayons or colored pencils; scissors; tape or staples

1. Cut or tear paper into different-sized strips.
2. Fill each strip with color.
3. Try placing different strips next to each other to see how the colors look together.
4. When you find an arrangement you like, tape or staple the strips together, or continue exploring different compositions.

Explore more

See more images of the artist and her work: s.si.edu/3eMWYxi



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Family Programs are made possible by the Samuel and Ronnie Heyman Family Endowment Fund.

Generous funding is provided by Brett and Daniel Sundheim. Additional support is provided by the Annual Education Fund.

School and Teacher Programs are generously supported by the Carroll and Milton Petrie Education Program Endowment, the William Randolph Hearst Endowment Fund, and the Mimi and Peter Haas Endowment Fund for Elementary School Programs.

Additional funding is provided by the Ducommun and Gross Family Foundation and by the Annual Education Fund.

Image: Alma Woodsey Thomas. *Untitled*. c. 1968. Acrylic and pressure-sensitive tape on cut-and-stapled paper. Gift of Donald B. Marron