



Biographical Statement

Alma Roberts is a Baltimore-based, second generation abstract expressionist artist. At the age of 62, she literally picked up a paint brush and began producing what has been described as “fully formed, energetic abstract compositions” that belied the fact that she was, at the time, new to the medium. Her works provide an insight into her viewpoints on life and the issues and forces that impact it.

Alma’s Father was a portraitist. He drew the faces of those fighting and yearning for a new way of life in this country and she tackles the same issues with her abstract paintings. She uses a broad pallet of colors to grab the attention of the viewer and then she adds splattering, markings, pours, and layering to get her messages across. She relies heavily on the use of circles and dots to represent humanity both living and past. Her work conveys her deep commitment to messages that are culturally grounded and focused on the struggle to undo racism and its traumatic generational impact on people of color in the U.S. Even as she engages in this continuous struggle, all of her work has some point of hope. **“The hope for real change is what has driven my activism all of my life.** In the words of Poet, Amanda Gorman, I have tried to “see the Light” and I have tried to “be the Light.”

For many years, Roberts’ creativity was channeled through spoken and written imagery. In 1983, she founded an award-winning cultural arts organization (New Breezes, Inc.) that promoted the works of regional and national literary, visual and performing artists. She uses her visual works to connect to and to translate her life to those she lives with, and live for. **“Even at this age, it is my intent to stay unapologetically woke and present through my art. I owe that to my Father, to honor the gift of his artistry that he passed on to me, and the sacrifices he made to give it. I also owe it to society to fight for what is needed to move our democracy to be the best that it was intended to be for all of its citizens.”**

Roberts is a self-taught artist who considers artists Alma Thomas, Jack Whitten, Norman Lewis, Sam Gilliam, Joan Mitchell, and Mark Rothko as influences on her work. She has had numerous exhibits over the years. In 2017, she had a successful solo exhibition at the City Hall Galleries in her hometown of Baltimore. She also has one of her compositions (A Vessel Full of Power, 2017) in the permanent collection of the James E. Lewis Museum at her undergraduate Alma Mater, Morgan State University (Baltimore). She is included in the Baker Artist Portfolios, and she is a Maryland State Arts Council *Grant for Artist* grant recipient (2022). Roberts is a founding member of the Joshua Johnson Council at the Baltimore Museum of Art. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African-American History and Culture, and is a Commissioner on the Baltimore Public Art Commission that oversees and approves the installation and maintenance of public art throughout the city.

Website: www.almaroberts.com

Instagram: @almarobertsart

Facebook: Alma Roberts Studio

Selected Exhibitions

Mayor Catherine E. Pugh Presents- Woke, December 7, 2017-January 22, 2018, Baltimore City Hall Gallery, Baltimore, Maryland (Solo exhibit)

In Her Own Words: Art, Blackness, and Womanhood, February 18-April 6, 2018, James E. Lewis Museum of Art, Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland (group exhibit)

Women Speaking Here; Women Speaking Hear, March 2019, Eubie Blake National Jazz and Cultural Center, Baltimore, Maryland (group exhibit)

I Kan Do Dat, March 2019/April 2019-May 3019, Rush Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania & Upper Darby Gallery, Upper Derby, Pennsylvania (group exhibit)

Artist Corner, Featured Artist, September 23-December 15, 2022, James E. Lewis Museum of Art at Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland (solo featured artist)

Wombmanity, October 20, 2022- March 14, 2023, BWI/Marshall Airport, International Concourse, Baltimore/Washington, D.C. (group exhibit)

Rise Above, February 3- May 2, 2023, Howard County, Maryland, Welcome Center, (group exhibit)

Black'ity Black, March 17-April 18, 2023, Novado Gallery, Jersey City, New Jersey (group exhibit)

We The People, March 5-June 5, 2023, Treasury Building, Annapolis, Maryland (group exhibit)

Black Art: In the Presence of Light, May 3-31, 2023, Gallery B, Bethesda, Maryland (group exhibit)

Love, Hope, and Art, September 8-November 5, 2023, Montpelier Arts Center, Laurel, Maryland (group exhibit)

Resilience Unveiled, September 17-October 29, 2023, Douglass-Myers Museum, Baltimore, Maryland (group exhibit)

Artdromedia Collective, January- April, 2024 Montgomery Park Galleries, Baltimore, Maryland (group exhibit)

Thoughts, Questions & Shit to Say, March 8, 2024, Dupont Underground Annual Women's Show, Washington, D.C. (group exhibit)

Voices of Our Ancestors, June-July, 2024, Maryland Federation of Art, Circle Gallery, Annapolis, Maryland (group exhibit)

Woven: Threads of Identity In Abstract Expressionism, August-September, 2024, Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, Popcorn Gallery, Glen Echo, Maryland, (group exhibit).

Creatively Black Baltimore, September-December, 2024, Light Street Pavillion, Baltimore, Maryland (group exhibit)

Keeping the Culture: The Last Twenty-five Years, September-December, 2024, James E. Lewis Museum, Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland (group retrospective exhibit).

Wonderbloom, September 2024- January 2025, Atlantic Coast Mortgage Gallery, Children's National Hospital, Washington, D.C. (group exhibit)