

What is Art?

People use art to show their interpretation of the world around them. It is a way of communication that can give a voice to feelings, thoughts, and ideas in unique ways. Below, find the words that describe some of the many aspects of art. Can you think of any other words that describe what art is?

P	Q	P	I	I	N	S	P	I	R	E	E
E	W	O	M	N	E	I	R	C	U	T	X
R	Y	A	A	N	L	S	K	R	D	J	P
S	G	H	G	O	Z	M	X	E	N	C	R
P	B	V	I	V	A	S	D	A	F	G	E
E	I	O	N	A	P	L	S	T	E	X	S
C	E	B	A	T	H	U	E	I	V	W	S
T	X	Y	T	I	Z	D	S	V	I	S	I
I	N	N	I	O	L	L	T	I	S	K	O
V	M	C	O	N	N	E	C	T	I	O	N
E	P	E	N	M	M	Q	U	Y	O	A	L
R	E	F	L	E	C	T	I	O	N	W	O

WORD LIST

Expression
Creativity
Inspire

Imagination
Vision
Connection

Innovation
Reflection
Perspective



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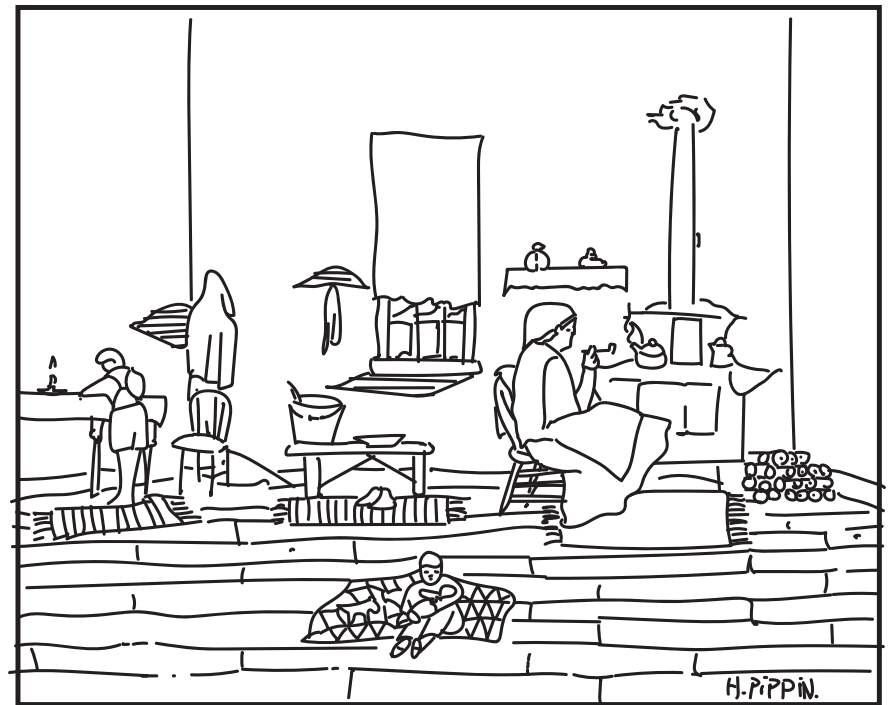
CULTURAL
AWARENESS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

OBSERVANCE

FEBRUARY

African Americans and the Arts



Black History Month is an annual observance originating in the United States, where it is also known as African American History Month.

Each year the Department of Defense (DoD), along with the rest of the Nation, recognizes the important contributions and rich culture of African Americans.

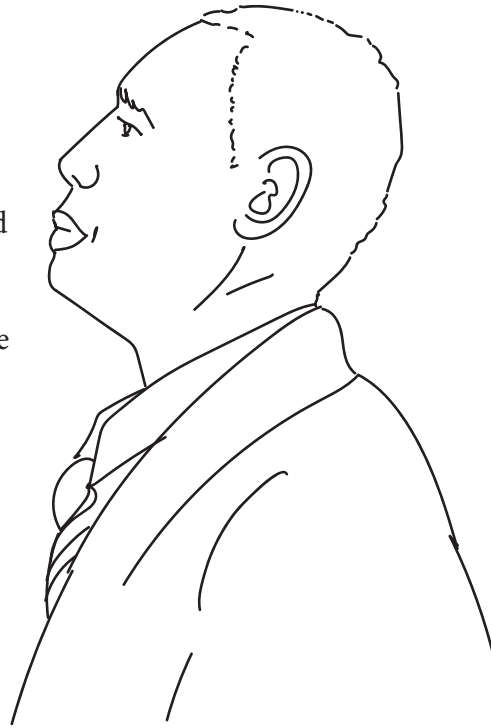
Horace Pippin is one of the most celebrated African American painters of the 20th century and a veteran of World War I. Being self-taught, he used a linear art style with powerful design and expressive color.

From West Chester, Pennsylvania, he enlisted in what would become the Army's 369th Infantry Regiment. During his service, a sniper shot permanently disabled his right arm.

He wrote a vivid account of his wartime service and experiences in a 61-page journal which contains numerous battlefield illustrations detailing his injury and which inspired his later work.

Returning home as a disabled veteran, he faced both racism and ableism and encountered social and employment barriers. Unable to return to manual labor, he began making oil paintings.

A major force in the folk-art revival of the 1930s, he developed a unique technique and style. His exposure and popularity grew as he distilled his experiences and memories into images of great power and poignancy.



Lt. James R. Europe

brought African American music genres international while leading the 369th Infantry Regiment "Hell Fighters" band.

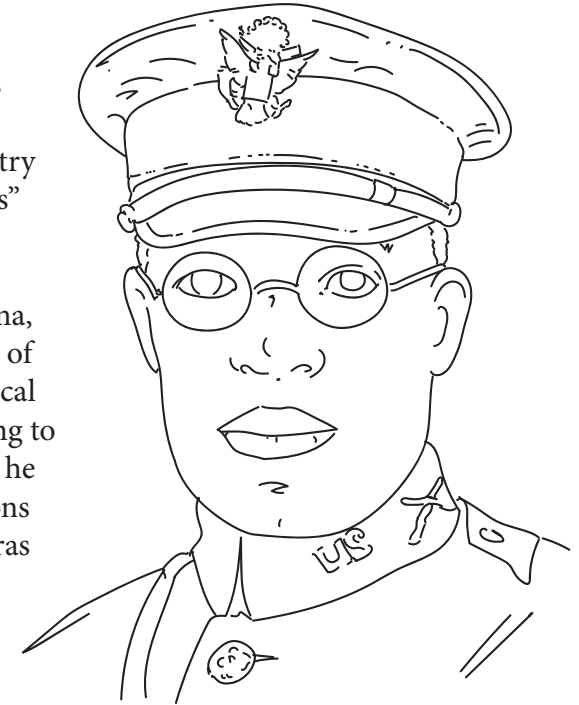
Born in Mobile, Alabama, in 1881, he became one of America's greatest musical innovators. After moving to New York City in 1910, he formed two organizations that conducted orchestras and choruses as well as served as a union and contracting agency for hundreds of Black musicians.

After the United States entered World War I, he was commissioned as a lieutenant where he led the regimental Army band.

His Black musicians proudly played their own original music, including jazz, blues, ragtime, and patriotic tunes, amazing audiences who were unable to replicate their unique sound.

Lt. Europe and his band were celebrated as heroes upon their return at the war's end. He was one of the first mainstream African American musicians. He is recognized as a composer, arranger, and American band leader.

Tragically, he was stabbed during a confrontation with one of his own bandsmen and he died in 1919. He was granted the first ever public funeral for a Black American in New York City.



“... We’ll observe how the burdens braved by humankind are also the moments that make us humans kind;

*Let every dawn find us courageous, brought closer;
Heeding the light before the fight is over.*

*When this ends, we’ll smile sweetly, finally seeing
In testing times, we became the best of beings.”*

Amanda Gorman

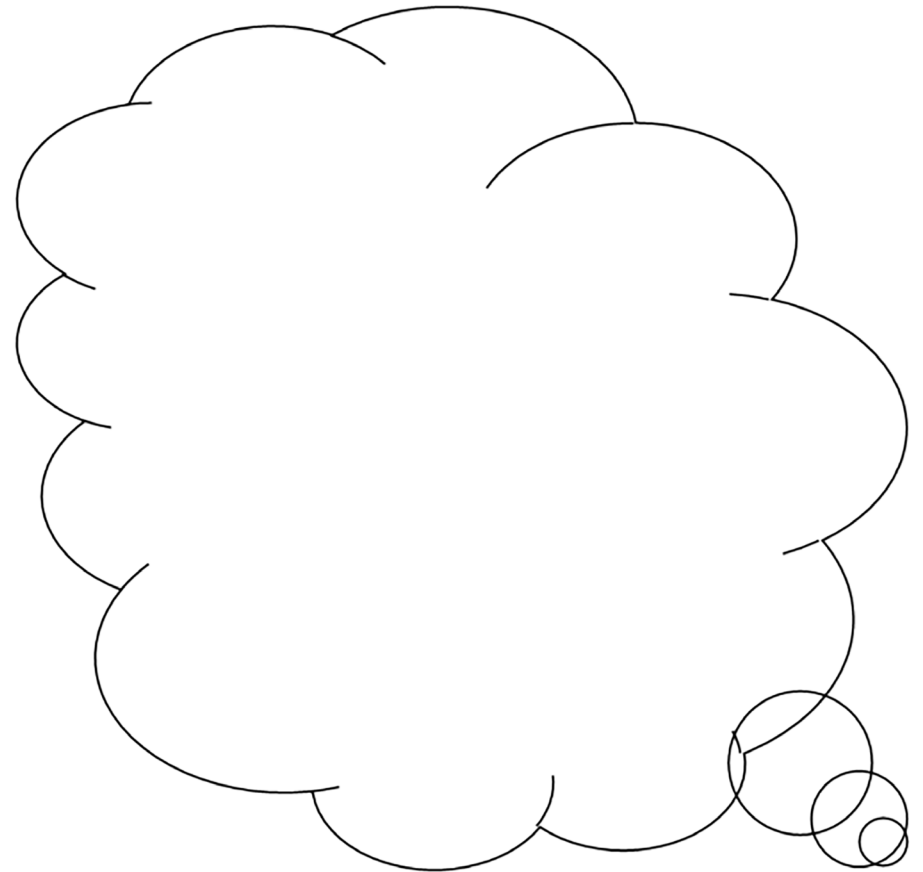
is an American poet and activist. She was born on March 7, 1998, in Los Angeles, California.

Her work has been praised for its themes of hope, resilience, and perseverance.

She has become a role model for many young people around the world, inspiring them to use their voices to create positive change in their communities.



Did you know? Did you know the DoD has an art contest every year for children who are connected to the military? No matter what branch of military your family is a part of you can submit a piece of art that shows what it means to you to be a military child. Music, sculpture, poetry, painting, your imagination is the only limit!



Since 2002, thousands of military-connected children have shared their experiences, dreams, and challenges through art.

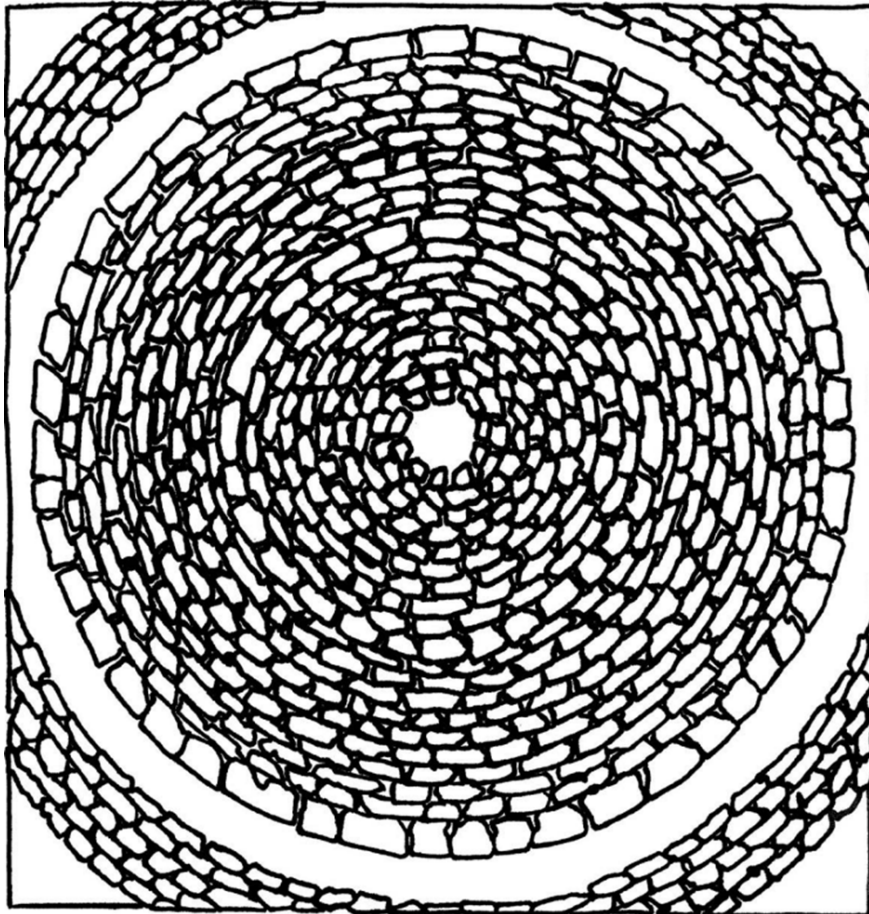


African Americans and the Arts

Alma Woodsey Thomas was an African-American artist and teacher who lived and worked in Washington, D.C., and is now recognized as a major American painter of the 20th century.

She did not become a full-time, professional artist until she was in her late 60's after she retired from teaching art at Washington's Shaw Junior High School.

She is known for the "exuberant", colorful, abstract paintings.



“Creative art is for all time and is therefore independent of time. It is of all ages, of every land, and if by this we mean the creative spirit in man which produces a picture or a statue is common to the whole civilized world, independent of age, race and nationality; the statement may stand unchallenged.”

