

**Mildred Thompson**  
**Resonance, Selected Works from the 1990s**  
**June 23 - Oct. 2, 2016**

The SCAD Museum of Art presents “Mildred Thompson: Resonance, Selected Works from the 1990s,” an exhibition featuring artwork by prolific American artist Mildred Thompson (1936–2003). Over several decades, Thompson devoted her artistic practice to exploring and expanding the language of nonrepresentational abstraction. This exhibition presents a selection of works from the 1990s that collectively represent her highly developed visual language.



Defined by dynamic mark-making, complex uses of color, and vast atmospheres, Thompson’s immersive imagery, created in the media of painting, drawing and printmaking, are inspired by scientific theories and universal systems. As exemplified in the works on view, Thompson sought to interpret and visualize elements and experiences invisible to the naked eye, with a particular affinity for the subjects of space and sound. In painting series such as “Music of the Spheres,” “String Theory” and “Magnetic Fields,” Thompson deftly and uniquely makes manifest ideas related to philosophy, physics, mathematics and astronomy in stylistic improvisations of lasting resonance.

With the renewed curatorial and academic interest in the African American contribution to the history of abstraction, “Mildred Thompson: Resonance, Selected Works from the 1990s,” presented in the Walter O. Evans Center for African American Studies, is a remarkable opportunity to expand this dialogue by celebrating the work of an under-recognized historical figure.

Although she was born in Jacksonville, Florida, Thompson spent most of her career in Germany and France to avoid racial discrimination she faced in the United States. She spent the last 15 years of her life in Atlanta, Georgia, where she worked as the associate editor of ART PAPERS magazine and taught at Spelman College, Agnes Scott College and the Atlanta College of Art, while producing accomplished bodies of work in fine art and music. Her work is included in the permanent collections of the Smithsonian American Art Museum and Howard University in Washington, D.C., and the Museum of Modern Art and the Brooklyn Museum in New York.

“Mildred Thompson: Resonance, Selected Works from the 1990s” is curated by Melissa Messina, interim executive director of the SCAD Museum of Art and Savannah exhibitions. Details at <http://www.scadmoa.org/exhibitions/2016/built-world>

**Image caption:** Mildred Thompson, “Music of the Spheres: Mercury,” oil on wood, 96" x 144", 1996. Image courtesy of the Mildred Thompson Estate.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

**SCAD Museum of Art** (#SCADMOA) is on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) (@scadmoa) and [Facebook](#) (SCAD Museum of Art). **SCAD** (#SCAD) is on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) (@SCADdotedu) and [Facebook](#) (SCAD – The University of Creative Careers). **Paula Wallace** is on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) @PaulaSWallace) and can also be found on [YouTube](#).

## **ABOUT THE SCAD MUSEUM OF ART**

The SCAD Museum of Art is a premier contemporary art museum established to enrich education of SCAD students and attract and delight visitors from around the world. Introducing new exhibitions every academic quarter, the museum showcases work by a range of highly acclaimed professional artists, inspiring and challenging students across disciplines to push the boundaries of their creative practice. The SCAD Museum of Art was recognized with the 2014 AIA Institute Honor Award for Architecture, named one of CNN’s 11 coolest buildings in North America and earned the National Trust for Historic Preservation Honor Award. The museum houses the Walter O. Evans Center for African American Studies, a multidisciplinary center for the study, understanding and appreciation of African American culture, art and literature.

The SCAD Museum of Art has received support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Ford Foundation, as well as gifts and grants from numerous family foundations, corporations and individuals. Foundation donors include the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, Charles A. Frueauff Foundation, Georgia Power Foundation, Hallmark Foundation, J.C. Lewis Foundation, Pfizer Foundation, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and Wyeth Foundation for American Art. Support has also come from a range of corporations, including 1600 Peachtree, THA Group, Latham & Watkins, Stanley Convergent Security Solutions, ArKay, Carver Community Development Corporation and T.W. Lord & Associates.

In collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense and museums across America, SCAD Museum of Art will offer free admission to active-duty military personnel and their families through Labor Day.

## **SCAD: THE UNIVERSITY FOR CREATIVE CAREERS**

The Savannah College of Art and Design is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution conferring bachelor’s and master’s degrees at distinctive locations and online to prepare talented students for professional careers. SCAD offers degrees in 42 majors, as well as minors in more than 70 disciplines across its locations in Savannah and Atlanta, Georgia; Hong Kong; Lacoste, France; and online through SCAD eLearning.

With more than 32,000 alumni worldwide, SCAD demonstrates an exceptional education and unparalleled career preparation. The diverse student body, consisting of more than 12,000 students, comes from across all 50 U.S. states and more than 100 countries. Each student is

nurtured and motivated by a faculty of nearly 700 professors with extraordinary academic credentials and valuable professional experience. These professors emphasize learning through individual attention in an inspiring university environment, and the innovative SCAD curriculum is enhanced by advanced, professional-level technology, equipment and learning resources.

In 2015, the prestigious Red Dot Design Rankings placed SCAD in the top four universities in the Americas and Europe. Career preparation is woven into every fiber of the university, resulting in a superior alumni employment rate. In a survey of Spring 2014 SCAD graduates, 97 percent of respondents reported being employed, pursuing further education or both within 10 months of graduation.

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