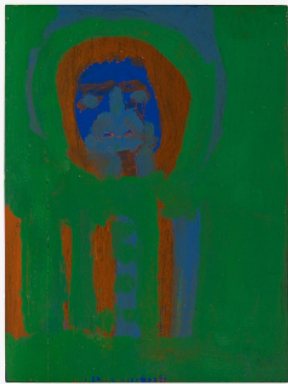


WIDE RAINBOW LESSONS: Artist Mary T. Smith

ARTIST INTRO:

Mary Tillman Smith (b.1904–1995) was an American self-taught folk artist from Mississippi known for expressive paintings made of house paint and found wood, tin, or scrap metal. At an early age, Smith was considered deaf and struggled in school only able to reach the fifth grade. Though hearing and speech impaired, Smith loved to draw and possessed her own creative intelligence. After two marriages, a son, and early retirement Smith found her way back to art and created numerous portraits of friends, family, and religious figures. She also transformed her home and garden into a personal exhibition space and immersive work of art. Today, Smith's artworks have been exhibited internationally and collected in numerous museum collections nationwide.

ARTWORK:





Mary Tillman Smith
Untitled, 1987
Paint on wood
48 x 32 inches
Collection of
Souls Grown Deep Foundation

WORKSHOP:

Let's make portraits inspired by Mary T. Smith of our friends, family, and those who support us every day!

1. Find or think of someone who *supports* you
(This could be a friend, family member, neighbor, teacher, etc.)
2. Pick 2 or 3 paint colors that express who they are
3. Invite that person to *sit* for you or use your imagination to paint them
4. Once finished, share your portrait and artwork with them
5. Let them know how important they are to you and think of ways you can *support* them too!

MATERIALS:

- Paint
- Brushes
- Found materials
(Ex: wood, tin, metal, or other)

**“I don’t go
nowhere no
more. I can’t hear
nothing. I don’t
need nothing. I
got it all here.”**

- Mary T. Smith

FOLLOW UP:

What is creativity?

What does it mean to be a self-taught artist?

How do you express yourself?

What are some of your daily challenges?

Who in your life could help you overcome your challenges?

How important is it to have someone in your life that support you?

How can you creatively overcome your own challenges too?

Wide Rainbow is a 501c3 contemporary art after school program.

Providing access to art, artists, and arts education.

www.widerainbow.org