



OBSERVE

Look closely at the painting. What do you notice? Does it seem busy or calm? What do you see that makes you say that?

RESPOND

The artist who made this painting combined art and science. What does this painting remind you of?

CONNECT

How would you describe this painting using a dance move?

Mildred Thompson
"String Theory VI," 1999.
Acrylic on vinyl.

georgiamuseum.org



GEORGIA MUSEUM *of* ART

UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

ABOUT THIS ARTIST

“My work in the visual arts is, and always has been, a continuous search for understanding. It is an expression of purpose and reflects a personal interpretation of the universe.”

— Mildred Thompson

Mildred Thompson was born in Jacksonville, Florida, in 1936. She began studying art at Howard University. She lived and worked in Germany and France for many years in order to avoid the racial discrimination she faced as a Black woman in the U.S. When she moved to Atlanta, Georgia, she taught art at the Atlanta College of Art. She painted and made sculpture and prints.

Thompson is best known for making abstract paintings. Abstract art does not look like any object or living thing. Artists use lines, shapes and color to create something that has never been seen before. Sometimes abstract art expresses an idea or thought. Thompson used abstract combinations of bright colors and dynamic lines to combine art and science. A singer and musician, she was also inspired

by music and created paintings that showed what jazz music sounded like to her. She was interested in using visual art to show phenomena that we can’t always see but exists all around us.

ABOUT THIS WORK OF ART

In “String Theory VI,” swirling lines and bright colors mix to create a feeling of energy. Thompson often painted quick, repeating shapes in vivid, colorful layers to make pulsing visual effects that lead your eyes across the work. She was inspired by outer space, sounds and the movement of energy, like light. Thompson created her own visual language that used art to show all kinds of scientific phenomena. The title of this painting comes from an idea in physics called string theory that suggests everything in the universe is connected.

CREATE

Make a work of art inspired by “String Theory VI”:



ART AT HOME ACTIVITY



MUSEUM INFORMATION



THE MUSEUM IS FREE TO VISIT. It’s open on weekends and late on Thursday nights. Have you ever been to an art museum? What was your favorite work of art that you saw there?

A man named Alfred Heber Holbrook started the Georgia Museum of Art. He donated 100 paintings to start our collection. Now we have about 18,000 objects, including paintings, drawings, sculptures and even furniture. What do you collect?

Holbrook believed in the idea of “art for everyone.” He used to put paintings in the trunk of his car. Then he would drive all over the state to share them with anyone who crossed his path. How do you share your art with your school and community?