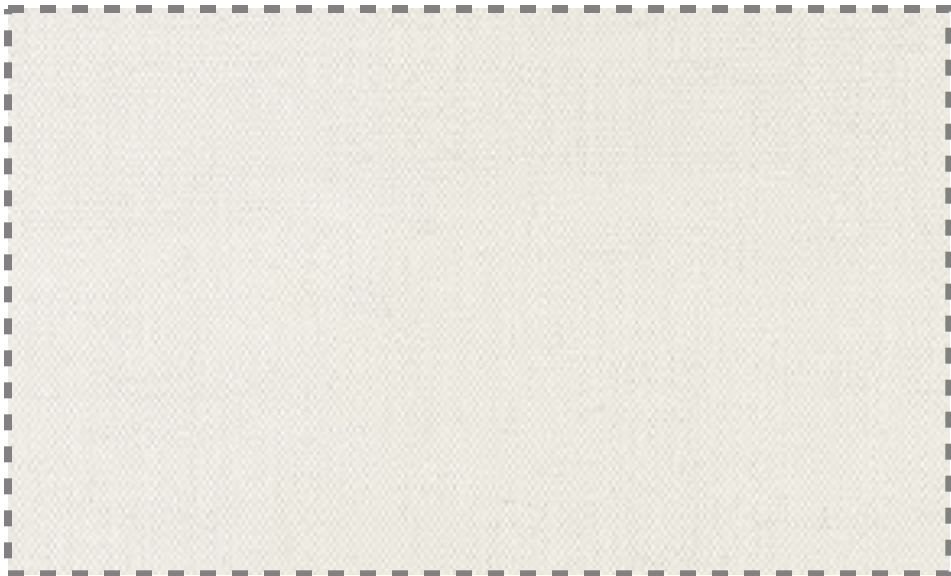


On the right is a picture of Harris on the front porch of her home. Harris says she doesn't have far to go to draw inspiration for her paintings. It's a simple matter of sitting on the front porch of her home in the Porters community of downtown Gainesville and gazing skyward.



In the space below is a little piece of "canvas." Sit down somewhere you like and think about your daily life to get some inspiration and then put it on the "canvas"! After you finish your art work, you can cut along the dotted line for your collection or even place it on somewhere you want such as your room wall, study desk, little frame, etc.

**Try this!**



**Family  
Gallery  
Guide**

**Alyne Harris**  
Vernacular Artist

**ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Written & Designed by Zhiju Liu

Alyne Harris was born in Gainesville, Florida on March 25, 1942. She has lived in her birth place virtually all her life. As a child, she preferred spending most of her childhood alone drawing in the sand rather than playing with the other children. Being a black woman, the subject matter of her artistic works and impressions are drawn from her African-American experience in the South. Her artistic impressions thematically address slavery, religion, the landscape, and memoirs of day to day life.



Harris is a self taught artist who paints during the night after her day job. She primarily paints with acrylics on Masonite, canvas, paper or cardboard. Her work is recognizable as she uses the same painting style using broad brush strokes and thick dabs of paint. Fingers, utensils, sticks and brushes are her main tools that bring to life the visions she sees in vivid color. Her work has been displayed in museums throughout the United States, including the American Folk Art Museum in New York City, the Rockford Art Museum in Illinois, the Asheville Art Museum in North Carolina, and the New Orleans Museum of Art in Louisiana.

# The Baptism

*The Baptism* depicts a group of people in front of their rural church at a baptism that would be performed in the lake in the foreground. Most of the African-American parishioners in attendance are wearing white robes, and the children stand in front with their arms outstretched.



Alyne Harris, *The Baptism*, acrylic on canvas, 30 x 24 inches, Gadsden Arts Center & Museum Permanent Collection, 2009. 1. 14

## GLOSSARY

**vernacular artists** - artists that are untrained, often living in isolated settings, who create art in response to their environment and experiences

**subject matter** - the identifiable objects or ideas presented by art

**acrylic** - a water-based “plastic” paint that appears like a gel; it is fast-drying and can be diluted in water, but it is water-resistant when dry

**Masonite** - is a type of hardboard made of steam-cooked and pressure-molded wood fibers

**landscape** - natural outdoor scenery, such as mountains, rivers, fields, or forests

**permanent collection** - a collection of artwork owned by a museum

**baptism** - a Christian ceremony in which a small amount of water is placed on a person's head or in which a person's body is briefly placed under water, symbolizing purity or regeneration and admission to the Christian Church

# Connecting

Artists paint on various surfaces like paper, canvas, cardboard, walls, etc. Can you identify which painting is on which surface from the images below? Connect the name on the left to painting on the right.

Masonite



Paper



Wall



Canvas

