WHAT
HAPPENED

In 1973, Ida Kohlmeyer became an associate professor of art at the University of New Orleans.

Artists **Ida Kohlmeyer** and **John McCrady** were two mid-20th Century painters in New Orleans with similar influences, but vastly different styles. Kohlmeyer and McCrady were both associated with the New York School of abstract expressionism.



Ida Kohlmeyer's work sits alongside other local talented artists of the mid-20th century including John McCrady and Fritz Bultman,

and all three were associated with the New York School of abstract expressionism.

Kohlmeyer "the Grand Dame" of color is known for her colorful abstract pictographs as well as her sculptures. She studied at Newcomb College and the John McCrady school of art before enrolling in the Hans Hoffman school in Massachusetts, where New Orleans' artist Fritz Bultman had also attended. Though she had opportunities, Kohlmeyer would not leave New Orleans. She taught at Newcomb College from 1956 to 1964, and it was during this time her work was influenced by Mark Rothko, who was a visiting artist at Tulane University.

Kohlmeyer embraced metal sculptures in her later years and completed works that are found throughout the city, including in a colonnade at the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, as well as throughout the South. She died in 1997.



'Composition 95-22' 1995



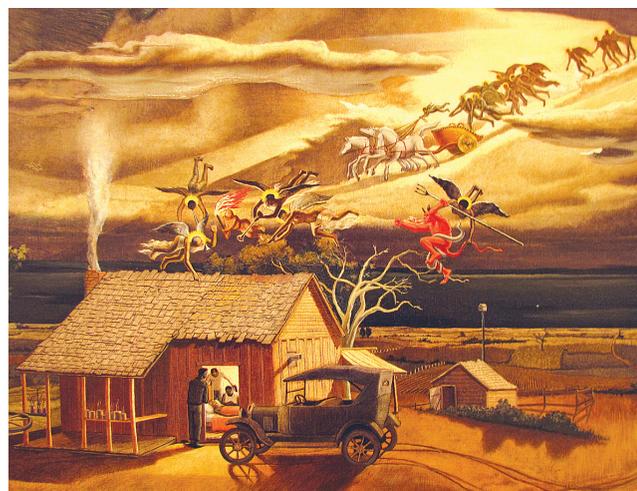
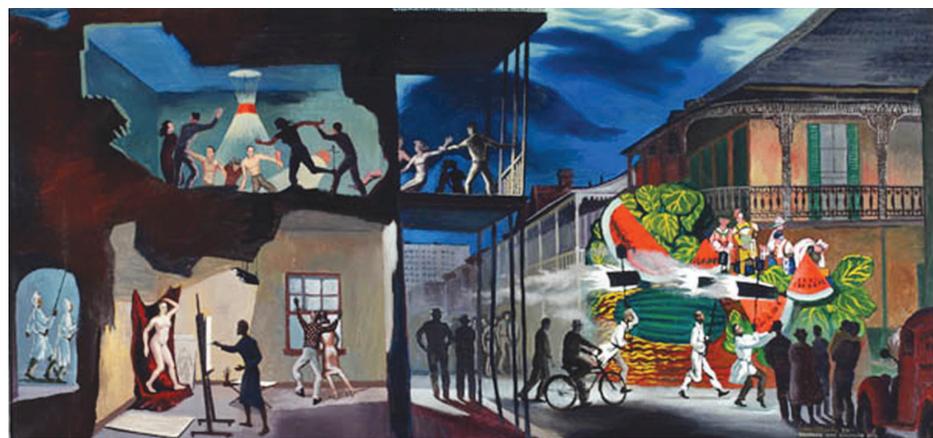
'Signs and Symbols 85-1' 1984



'Fenestrated #6' 1993



John McCrady was born in Mississippi and was a noted regionalist painter, commissioned to paint several murals and posters by the federal government in the 1940s. He received a Guggenheim fellowship "to paint the life and faith of the southern Negro," and was called "a star risen from the bayou," by Time Magazine. In 1942 he founded the McCrady Art School on Bourbon Street.



Influential painter and teacher John McCrady depicted himself painting a portrait of a nude woman while a Mardi Gras parade rolls outside his French Quarter studio in 'The Parade' (1950).

'Swing Low, Sweet Chariot' 1937