

## **Elmer Lucille Allen**

“You have to do art for you.....It has to be out of your heart.”

Elmer Lucille Allen had a 31-year career as a chemist with Brown-Forman before she took up the arts in retirement. She is recognized for her creative work in both ceramics and the fiber arts. In recognition of achievements in science, the arts, and volunteerism, a mural about her life was dedicated in 2019 in the Smoketown neighborhood of Louisville where she grew up. At the age of 71, she received a master of arts degree in creative arts with a major in ceramics from the University of Louisville. She was president of the Kentucky Coalition for Afro-American Arts, Inc. that published two directories of Kentucky African American artists and arts organizations under her direction. She is both a member of Louisville Clay and the Louisville Area Fiber and Textile Artists (LAFTA). The Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft (KMAC), Kentucky State University Gallery, Actors Theatre of Louisville, and the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art are among the many venues that have exhibited her nonfunctional ceramic teapots and her wall pieces in the Japanese Shibori fabric dying technique. Her work is in many private collections as well as the collection of Spaulding University, Brown-Forman Corporation, and the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs at Purdue University.