



## Educator's Vault Lesson

**Artist: Morris Taft Thomas**

**Grade Level: Secondary**

### **Inspiration:**

Have students study the two works of art by Morris Taft Thomas, *Egret's Nest* and *Like This Papa* from the AMoA Educator's Vault.

### **Questions for Students:**

- What is happening in *Like This Papa*?
- Do find any emotional value to the image?
- Does it tell a story to you?
- What about the Egret?
- Both works are realistic, does that make the artist more valuable?

Watch video (I recommend this for Black History Month) on YouTube, [Local Hidden Figure- Artist Morris Taft Thomas](#). The video is 30 plus minutes, but I recommend the middle portion starting at 12:15. The artist tells a true story about how he broke the color barrier of being a black artist.

Ask students why he was successful as an artist? Did he allow color barriers to keep him from being an artist?

### **Process:**

Students should be asked to remember moments of personal history which they could illustrate. Similar to *Like This Papa*, maybe with a parent, grand parent or other important adult. Include a background, middle and fore ground.

**Note:** I recommend the use of Crayola, Colors of the World: crayons, markers and colored pencils.