

Georgia O'Keeffe

Born: November 15, 1887
 Died: March 6, 1986.
 She was 99 years old.

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Artist as a Child

- Born in 1887 in Sun Prairie, WI.
- By the time she was in eighth grade she knew she wanted to be an artist. At the age 12, she began taking her first art lessons.
- At 15, she served as the art editor of her Virginia boarding school yearbook and studied art under an amazing art teacher, Mrs. Willis.
- She loved to draw silly sketches of her teachers.



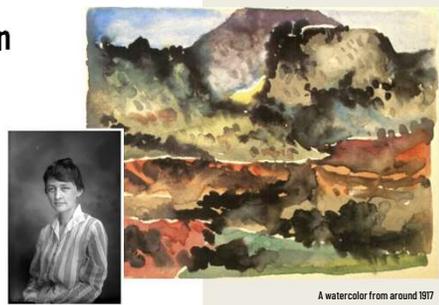
A watercolor piece she painted at the age of 17

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Art Education

After high school, Georgia attended the Art Institute of Chicago, then a couple years later she went to the Art Students League in New York City.

Georgia learned a lot from her fellow artists but felt frustrated because she was not able to express her own style.



Georgia O'Keeffe as a teaching assistant to Alon Bement at the University of Virginia in 1915

A watercolor from around 1917

3

Art Education

Even harder for Georgia, women were not considered artists in the early 1900s. The only way a woman could make a living as an artist was to be an art teacher.

She taught art in public schools in Texas from 1912-1914.

She went back to college and continued to develop her modern style.



Red with Orange Streak, 1919

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Career Growth

In 1918, a famous photographer and gallery owner in New York, Alfred Stieglitz asked Georgia O'Keeffe to come to New York to make a living as an artist. He later became her husband.

He always had one of her paintings in his gallery and helped her make a name for herself as an artist.

Blue and Green, 1921

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Artistic Success

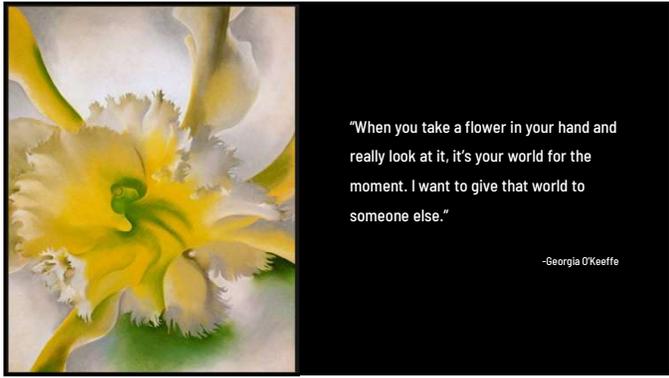


Johnson Weed, 1936

© Universal Popcorn, 827

By the mid-1920s, she had become the first female painter to be as popular as male artists in New York. Her distinctive way of painting nature in shapes and forms that made them seem familiar, yet new earned her a reputation as a pioneer of the form.

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"When you take a flower in your hand and really look at it, it's your world for the moment. I want to give that world to someone else."

-Georgia O'Keeffe

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Famous Flowers

In 1928, six of her Calla Lilly paintings sold for \$25,000, which was the largest amount ever paid at the time for a group of paintings by a living American artist.

Although she was famous for her flower paintings only 200 of her over 2,000 paintings were of magnified flowers.



Two Calla Lilies on Pink, 1929

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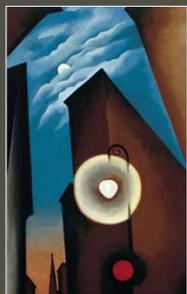
Visions of the City

She took on a different approach to cityscapes.

O'Keeffe loved the modern New York City skyscrapers.



Radiator Building - Night 1927

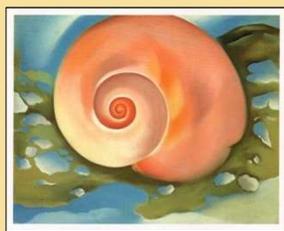


New York Street with Moon, 1925

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Shapes of Nature

O'Keeffe wasn't interested in human forms at all.



Pink Shell with Seaweed, 1937



Black Rock on Red, 1937



Red with Orange Streak, 1919

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Cow Skull with Calliope Roses, 1937



Rams Head White Hollyhock, and Little Hills, 1935



Cow's Skull - Red, White, Blue, 1938

When she travelled to New Mexico she found the bones of animals interesting. Bones didn't remind her of death, they reminded her of what went on after death, of the solidness of shape.

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Where did O'Keeffe like to paint?



Hot Air Balloon



Model A Ford Car



Rowboat

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Loving Adventure

Sky Above the Clouds II, 1963

Whether it was teaching herself to drive cars (that were starting to become common in the late 1920's), flying around the world in the 1960's, or exploring New Mexico on the back of a motorcycle, O'Keeffe was always excited for an adventure.

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One of the most photographed woman over the 20th century

Stieglitz made O'Keeffe the subject of a long-term series of portraits meant to capture individuals as they aged, and she made for a striking model.

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Though Stieglitz died in 1946, the photo project lived on as other photographers sought out O'Keeffe to capture the beloved artist against the harsh New Mexican landscapes she loved.

Georgia O'Keeffe in 1950

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End of Life

In her later years, O'Keeffe began to lose her eyesight. As a result of her failing vision, she painted her last unassisted oil painting in 1972, however, her urge to create didn't falter.

With the help of assistants, she continued to make art, and she wrote the bestselling book, *Georgia O'Keeffe* (1976).

She passed away at the age of 98, in 1986.

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Flowers

Art Fundamentals:

- Contrast
- Magnification
- Use of line

Art Supplies:

- 8.5" x 11" Watercolor paper
- Watercolor paint or liquid watercolor paint & palette
- Pencil & eraser
- Light colored crayons
- Paper towels
- Water cups
- Paintbrush
- Scrap paper for underneath

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Put your name on your paper

Click to start the 3-5 grade lesson

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Drawing instructions for Grades K-2

Grades K-2

Drawing a Flower
Georgia O'Keeffe Lesson

RachelDillon.com

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Drawing instructions for Grades K-2

1 Start with a circle as the middle of the flower.

2 Add one petal like you saw in the drawing video.

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Drawing instructions for Grades K-2

3 Finish the petals around the flower.

4 Add circles in the center circle of the flower.

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Drawing instructions for Grades K-2

5 Add the lines in the petals.

Click to start the crayon outline and painting part

22

Drawing instructions for Grades 3-5

1 Start with an oval which will be in the middle of the flower. Put that oval off-center, like in a lower right corner.

2 Add another layer around the oval and circles as texture in the center.

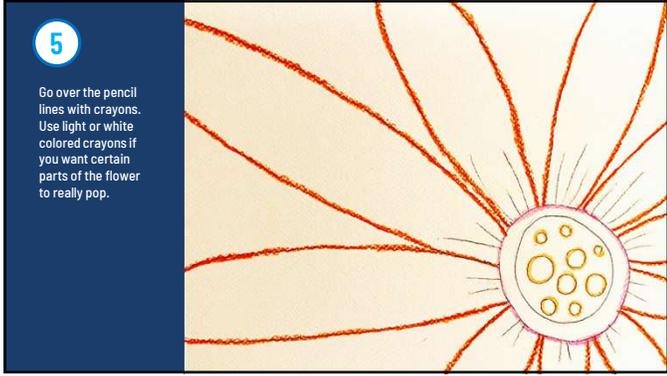
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Drawing instructions for Grades 3-5

3 Add the petals that bleed off the edges of the paper.

4 Add lines as details from the center of the flower into the petals.

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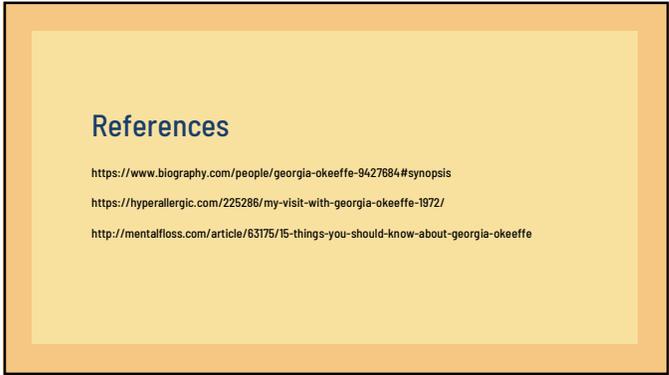
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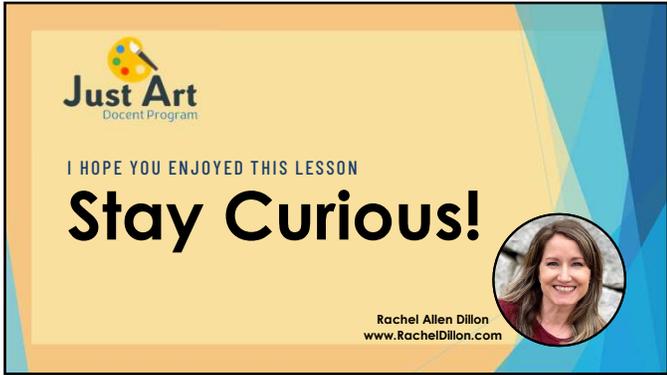
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