

Georgia O'Keeffe Style Flowers

4th - 8th Grade



Materials Needed:

Display My Art drawing paper, pencil, watercolor or craft/acrylic paint, magic markers, paint brushes, sample pictures of Georgia O'Keefe flower paintings ("Red Poppy" shown). Photographs of real flowers or silk flowers to model drawing after.

Instructions:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Artist and painter Georgia O'Keeffe was born on November 15, 1887, in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. She was given art lessons (which was uncommon for girls at this time) and began creating art at a young age, then went to study at the Art Institute of Chicago in the early 1900s. She is well known for her striking flower paintings where her interesting vantage points depicted her subjects as simple, but strong. O'Keeffe was one of the greatest American artists of the twentieth century.

1. Discuss "Vantage Point". A vantage point is where you think the artist seems to have been standing when they were creating the art. The students will be looking down at the flower and drawing what they see from THEIR vantage point.
2. Students can use many different varieties of flowers, it isn't the type of flower that is important, but more so the size and vantage point of the drawing. Have them start from the center of the flower and work their way out. Have them think **BIG!** Georgia O'Keeffe painted her flowers large so even a delicate subject came across as strong and powerful. **LIGHTLY** in pencil, begin to draw an outline of the flower. Instruct that the students **MUST** touch all sides of the paper with their object, and part of the object will look like it fell off the page. Discuss how petals of flowers **OVERLAP** each other and how the students should not be afraid to draw their petals overlapping.
3. Once the student is happy with their outline, have them trace over the outline in magic marker. If they want the edges of the petals to stay crisp and defined, use a permanent marker (ex: Sharpie). If they want the edges of the petals to blend more, they can use a non-permanent marker (depending on the age of the students, the teacher may want to make this call; permanent marker does NOT wash out of clothes!).
4. With craft paint or watercolors, begin painting the petals in the desired colors. Again, have the students start in the center of the flower and paint out from there. Have them use some shading. (Shading can be created by mixing a little bit of black with the color to make it darker). A tint is a lighter tone of that color and can be created by adding white or watering the color down.
5. Make sure to paint a bright contrasting color in the background so that the whole page is filled with color!
6. **DON'T FORGET TO PUT STUDENT NAME AND YEAR ON THE DRAWING**, at least one inch away from outside border.