

LESSON PLAN

AT-HOME ART PROJECT: Nature Walk Art

INSTRUCTIONS



Oriental Poppies, 1928



Pineapple Bud, 1939



Hibiscus with Plumeria, 1939

INSPIRATION ARTIST: Georgia O'Keeffe

"When you take a flower in your hand and really look at it, it's your world for the moment."

Georgia O'Keeffe

Georgia O'Keeffe was an American artist born in 1887. From the age of 12, Georgia knew that she wanted to be an artist. She painted nature in a way that showed how it made her feel. She is best known for her paintings of flowers and desert landscapes.

Georgia played an important part in the development of modern art in America, becoming the first female painter to gain respect in New York's art world in the 1920s. She pioneered a unique and new way of painting nature, through simplifying its shapes and forms.

Georgia said, "If I could paint the flower exactly as I see it no one would see what I see because I would paint it small like the flower is small. So I said to myself, 'I'll paint what I see – what the flower is to me but I'll paint it big and they will be surprised into taking time to look at it – I will make even busy New Yorkers take time to see what I see of flowers.'"

Georgia is known as the "Mother of American Modernism".

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MATERIALS NEEDED FROM HOME:

- White or light colored paper
- Cardstock or construction paper any color any size.
- Pencil and eraser
- Black Sharpie
- Colored pencils, watercolor or markers
- Scissors
- Plants and flowers in your home, yard or neighborhood.

ART PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Artists will create an up close artwork of a plant or flower inspired by the work of Georgia O'Keefe.

PROMPT QUESTIONS:

- Georgia loved to paint things she found in nature. What plants and flowers do you have in your home, yard or neighborhood?
- How does looking through the viewfinder change your perspective.
- What shapes can you see in your plant? Textures? Colors?
- How can you make some areas of color darker or lighter?

ART MAKING PROCESS:

Step 1:

- Use the construction paper/cardstock to create a viewfinder: Fold the paper in half. At the fold in the center, cut out a small square (roughly ½ in.). When you unfold the paper, there should be a small square opening in the center.

Step 2:

- Go for a walk around your yard or neighborhood. What kinds of plants and flowers can you find?

Step 3:

- Use your viewfinder, look through the center square to look at the plants you have chosen to draw. Take your time and look at the plants from many different angles and distances. Zoom in and out with your viewfinder.

Step 4:

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- Once you have chosen your favorite viewpoint, hold the viewfinder while you use your pencil and lightly sketch out the image on the white paper.

Step 5:

- Think big! Draw your plant oversized to capture that “zoomed in” and up close view, fill the page with your image. Allow lines to go off the edges of your paper.

Step 6:

- Outline your drawing with black sharpie and erase any visible pencil marks.

Step 7:

- Fill with color. Use what you have: markers, colored pencils or watercolor.

POST PROMPT QUESTIONS:

- How did using the viewfinder change the way you saw the plants? What did you notice?
- What challenges did you have drawing your plant? How did you problem solve?
- What will you draw next?

EXTRA FUN:

1. Explore your home or neighborhood using your viewfinder. Try drawing other things using the viewfinder to zoom in on things around you: a pet, a piece of furniture, a bike, a shoe. Get creative!

2. Visit a virtual exhibit of Georgia O’Keefe’s work at the Tate Museum in the UK.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/who-is/who-georgia-okeeffe>

3. Read more about Georgia’s life.

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/127063.My_Name_Is_Georgia

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ART PROJECT EXAMPLES:



SOURCES:

<https://learnodo-newtonic.com/georgia-okeeffe-famous-paintings>

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/who-is/who-georgia-okeeffe>

<https://observer.com/2018/05/georgia-okeeffe-dole-ad-paintings-made-in-hawaii-have-been-reunited/>

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<https://masterpiecesociety.com/georgia-okeeffe-mother-american-modernism/>