

# GEORGIA O'KEEFE FLOWERS

## GEORGIA TOTTO O'KEEFE

(November 15, 1887 – March 6,

1986) was an American artist. Born near Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, Georgia O'Keeffe has been a major figure in American art since the 1920s. She received widespread recognition for her technical contributions, as well as for challenging the boundaries of modern American artistic style. She is chiefly known for paintings of flowers, rocks, shells, animal bones and landscapes in which she synthesized abstraction and representation. Her paintings present crisply contoured forms that are replete with subtle tonal transitions of varying colors. She often transformed her subject matter into powerful abstract images. Importantly, O'Keeffe played a central role in bringing an American art style to Europe at a time when the majority of influence flowed in the opposite direction. This feat enhanced her art-historical importance given that she was one of few women to have gained entry to this level of professional influence. She found artistic inspiration, particularly in New Mexico, where she settled late in life.



## MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Color reproductions (prints, calendar pages, etc.) of O'Keeffe's work (obtain online)
- Pencils
- Paper
- Oil pastels
- Acrylic paint or tempera or watercolors
- Water
- Small containers for water
- Sample artificial (or real) flowers

## WHAT TO DO:

1. Briefly discuss Georgia O'Keeffe's life and show large color reproductions of her work.
2. Children should receive a large white piece of paper and a pencil.
3. Place flowers at all tables for children to touch, feel, and see.
4. Parent/teacher models by drawing outline of shape of large flower. (hibiscus flowers work best as an example)
5. Children mimic what they see, drawing their own (interpretations) from parent/instructor's example.
6. Encourage children to use oil pastels to color in small areas of the flowers.
7. Provide small containers of paint mixed with small amount of water (to produce a *wash*)
8. Have children do *color wash*, all of the areas of paper that do not have oil pastels. Allow paintings to dry.



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CHESTER COUNTY ART ASSOCIATION

610-696-5600

www.chestercountyarts.org

Lesson Plan by instructor Deb Hodies who is teaching the following summer art camps:

- Come Create with Picasso (Grades K-2): June 22 - June 26, 9AM to 12:15PM
- Lego Inspired Art (Grades 3-5): July 20 - July 24, 9AM to 12:15PM



## **Georgia O'Keeffe**

Georgia O'Keeffe was born on November 15th, 1887 in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, and by the age of 10 already knew she was destined to become an artist. O'Keeffe completed formal art training at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago followed by the Art Students League of New York. In 1918, O'Keeffe took up residence in New York and began working seriously as an artist. She created many forms of abstract art, and famously is known for her close ups of flowers. In 1929, she began spending part of her year in the Southwest--which was the influence for many of her landscapes and animal skull paintings. O'Keeffe passed away on March 6, 1986 at the age of 98.