

**FAMOUS ARTIST SERIES:
GEORGIA O'KEEFFE (1887-1986)**

Supplies needed:

ART BIN:

- * Visual aids for art project (shown in 7 steps with some color variations)
- * Book: My Name is Georgia, by Jeanette Winter
- * Watercolor paper (Cut to approx. 4"x6", 1 per student)
- * Roll paper towels, folded into squares (1 per student)
- * 20+ Paintbrushes (approx 1 per student)
- * Art Project samples
- * Fake flowers for visual aid

CFA CLOSET:

- * Small Cups for water, one per table

OTHER:

- * Colored markers from classroom supplies— CRAYOLA WASHABLE ONLY
- * Pencil for each student

AHEAD OF TIME NOTE:

- Cut watercolor paper to approx. 4"x6 and black/gray mats to 6x9
- Read through project steps carefully. It may look complex at first, but it really is very simple, with very satisfying results!

In classroom prior to Presentation:

- Fold into four layers one paper towel for each child
- Fill cups for water, one cup per table

PRESENTATION:

Today, we will be studying a great American artist named Georgia O'Keeffe. She grew-up in Wisconsin and she loved the outdoors. She painted many landscapes; pictures of trees and mountains. She also is known for her close-up paintings of flowers.

Present - [Photos of Georgia O'Keeffe](#):

Here is a [photo of Georgia O'Keeffe](#). She was married to a famous photographer named Alfred Stieglitz. He was known for his portraiture: he took black & white pictures of famous people with his camera. One of his favorite famous people to photograph was his wife Georgia O'Keeffe. He showed her doing the thing she loved best: painting.

Now, let's read a book about Georgia O'Keeffe:

Read [My Name Is Georgia](#) by Jeanette Winter.

Present - O'Keeffe's [FLORALS](#) ([Scroll through site](#)):

- Discuss how she loved nature so much and how she filled her canvas with what she saw.
- Look at details in her pictures: discuss color, size, brushstrokes
- Do they look realistic or abstract?

SUGGESTED PROJECT:

Today, we will have a chance to paint flowers the way Georgia O'Keeffe saw them. **(Explain to the students that they must be good listeners.)** You will take time for each step, and will not go on to the next step until everyone is quiet and ready. **(Volunteer: You may show visual aids for each step as you go, but also demonstrate on a sheet of paper taped to the dry erase board)**

Turn your paper over and use your pencil to write your name on the back.

Choose the color for the flower you will create for your picture: Red, purple, blue or orange and take out your markers. You will also need a green marker for the leaves and possibly black, if you choose to do a poppy.

Step 1: Using your pencil, lightly draw five or six small circles in the middle of the page, like a cluster of grapes.

Step 2: Using your pencil, draw soft teardrop or heart shapes for petals going all the way to the edge of the paper. The small triangular point should start in the center next to your grapes. Be sure to make your petals almost FILL the page like O'Keeffe's work *(If a student makes theirs too short, just have them draw another row of petals until they fill the page).*

Step 3: Using your pencil, draw two short lines - about one inch long – on the center of each petal coming from the small grape circles and going out toward the edge of the paper, to give the petal some detail and dimension.

Step 4: Using your markers, outline your petals and lines in the color you've chosen for your flower. Outline the small circles and "star shape" (if you've created one) in the center. If you are

using making a red or orange poppy, use black to outline the center circles and star shape. If you are making a purple or blue flower, outline the center circles and star shape in green. DO NOT FILL IN THE SHAPES - JUST OUTLINE THEM!

Step 5: Now, color in ONLY the tips of the petals, about one inch down toward the center. Do NOT color in the entire petal. Use black to fill in the center of the star shape, if making a poppy.

Using your green marker, indicate leaves around the flower and color the leaf tip ONLY.

Have everyone come to the center of the room. Tell them to watch while you do the next step.

Step 6: Dip your brush into the water, blot brush onto a paper towel, then starting first on the flowers, paint over the marker, brushing into the empty space on each petal. Continue brushing each petal. This is tricky, as TOO MUCH WATER WILL SOAK THE PAPER AND MAKE THE COLORS BLEED TOO MUCH. Finish each petal before moving on to the leaves. **Make sure to blot the brush before you “paint” another color.** Ready to try it?

Pass out the brushes, paper towels for blotting and cups with water.

(Optional) Step 7: When the students are finished, yellow markers may be used in the “grapes” at the center of each flower to create highlights.

Time permitting, students may share their work with one another.

Have the teacher designate a drying area where students may place their work.