

4th Grade - Georgia O'Keefe

Materials:

- Assorted fake flowers (please collect and reuse)
- Pencil
- Watercolor paints (in art closet)
- Paint brushes (in art closet)
- White paper (in art closet)
- Cups to hold water to clean brushes

Lesson Plan:

1. Introduce Georgia O'Keefe. There are lots of note in the Art Enrichment folder and/or find an online video on YouTube, or there is a Georgia O'Keefe DVD that you can check out from the library and have going on in the background with no volume that shows her work. Or there is a google slide presentation available for this lesson. If you choose to use it, you may want to email the teacher ahead of time to see if it can be projected in the classroom. It is located on a zip drive in the art Appreciation folder. It also explains the project and is quite helpful.

2. Show pictures of Georgia O'Keefe's flower paintings. Ask the kids what they observe about them, and what they think that she is doing in her paintings different than other artists. If you can get it out of them, you are looking for them to say that she is painting them really big! Explain that what made her famous was that she painted flowers in EXTREME CLOSE-UP instead of the typical view of flowers in a vase or on a table.

3. Talk about the difference between a CLOSED COMPOSITION and OPEN COMPOSITION. (Closed means nothing's going off the page and everything's contained in the picture boundaries, open composition is the opposite). Explain that they will be doing an OPEN composition today. Show your example, and tell them there's one rule when they are drawing their flowers. Their flower must be so BIG that it touches at least 3 SIDES OF THEIR PAPERS. This is a hard one for some kids to get... a lot of kids tend to want to draw them really tiny. This is a good stretch for some, and gets them out of their comfort zones.

4. Hand out art supplies and work. Give each kid one of the fake flowers to draw (another idea is to buy fresh flowers and transport them there in vases). If you're working with older kids, remind them to look for color variations and tiny details and shapes they might see in their flowers- work on their observation skills! Draw first in pencil, then cover with water colors. You might emphasize the use of a contrasting color for the background so that their flower really pops.

5. Let them dry and then hang up somewhere that needs a pop of color!