



Art

Georgia O'Keeffe
Abstract/modernism
1887-1986

Year 5 Unit 1

Key Vocabulary:

Core Knowledge

Modern Art

Artwork made between the 1860s and the 1970s. The term is usually associated with art in which the traditions of the past have been thrown aside in a spirit of experimentation.

Abstract Art

Artwork made from colour, shape and pattern rather than objects which you recognise.

Textile

Fabric or cloth.

Technical Vocabulary

Wax resistant

Draw with wax on your paper, paint over the wax, and the wax resists the watercolour leaving the white of the paper exposed beneath the wax.

Batik

Batik is an Indonesian technique of wax-resist dyeing applied to the whole cloth. Batik is made by drawing dots and lines of the wax resist with a spouted tool called a canting.

Key Works of Art



Oriental Poppies (1928)



**Jimson Weed, White Flower
No. 1 (1932)**

The most expensive painting by a woman- sold for £28 million in 2014 at auction.





Lake George Reflection (1922)
(can be viewed horizontally or vertically)

Biography



Georgia O'Keeffe
1887-1986

- Georgia O'Keeffe was born in 1887. She was an American artist who painted nature in a way that showed how it made her feel. She is best known for her paintings of flowers and desert landscapes.
- She 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.
- Her unique and new way of painting nature, simplifying its shapes and forms meant that she was called a pioneer.
- Georgia knew from the age of 12 that she wanted to be an artist. She went to art school but what she was taught there didn't seem relevant to the way she wanted to paint.
- Then in 1912 she discovered the revolutionary ideas of an artist and designer called Arthur Wesley Dow. He emphasised the importance of composition – which means how you arrange shapes and colours.
- As O'Keeffe explained: 'His idea was, to put it simply, fill a space in a beautiful way'. This was a light-bulb moment for her and from then on, she began to experiment with shapes, colours and marks.
- In 1916 she became the Head of the Art Department at West Texas State Normal College until 1918. For a woman at that time, it was a huge step forward and recognition for her talent and teaching experience.
- Georgia's charcoal drawings were exhibited at the 291 Gallery in New York City which was owned by Alfred Stieglitz. In April 1916 he exhibited ten of her drawings in the gallery. The following year in 1917 Georgia had her first solo exhibition at 291.
- Georgia met other artists who, like her, were experimenting with abstract art. Art in the 1920s was exciting. This encouraged Georgia to develop her own unique style – a combination of abstract and realistic.
- Georgia wanted to stay as close as possible to the remote landscape places she loved, she travelled around the desert drawing and painting. Luckily, she had her favourite mobile studio with her – her car – which she'd specially adapted as a place to work!
- To seek out new inspiration for her artwork, Georgia visited New Mexico every year from 1929 to 1949 and in 1940 she moved into a house on Ghost Ranch, North New Mexico. The beautiful cliffs inspired much of her painting.
- She had two retrospective exhibitions: one was in 1946 at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. It was significant because she was the first woman artist to have been given one there.
- She also received many honorary degrees from universities.
- In 1977 President Ford presented Georgia with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. It is the highest award that can be given to American people.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Georgia O'Keeffe died at the age of 98 in 1986. Today, she is considered one of the most influential and famous female artists in American history.• She is sometimes called the "Mother of American modernism." |
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