

Georgia O'Keeffe

1887 - 1986



The Beauty of Nature

Sun Prairie, Wisconsin

1887



The farm where Georgia grew up was a great place to learn about nature. Georgia wanted to touch and feel everything. She remembered that when she was very little, she put dirt in her mouth to see what it tasted like!

Art Instruction



“Dead Rabbit with a Copper Pot” by Georgia O’Keeffe, 1908

Georgia’s mother thought art was very important and made sure her children had art lessons as they grew up. Georgia did so well with her lessons that her parents encouraged her to go to art college after she graduated high school. Georgia studied at different art schools and colleges all over the country. At one school, in New York City, she won a prize for the painting above.

New York



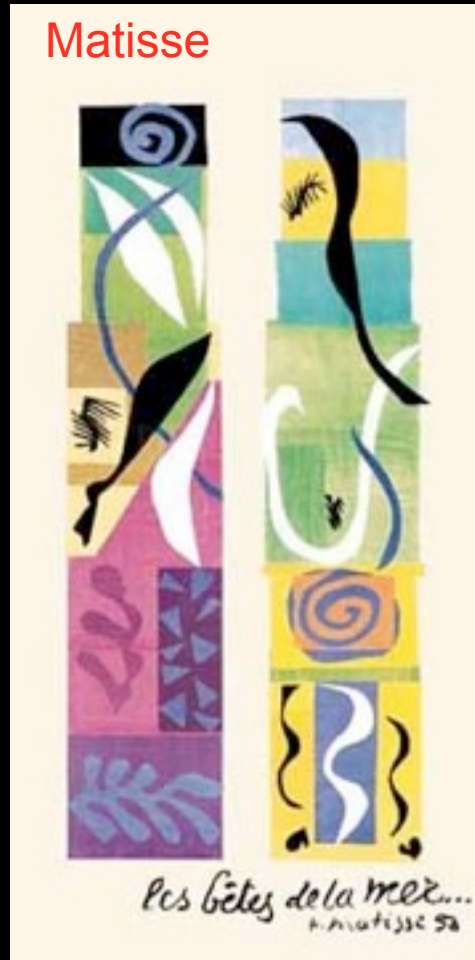
“Georgia O’Keeffe: A Portrait” by Alfred Stieglitz, 1918

Georgia liked New York City. It was busier and more exciting than the peaceful farm areas where she’d grown up. Georgia often visited a small gallery in New York City that showed the work of new artists. It was owned by a well-known photographer named Alfred Stieglitz.

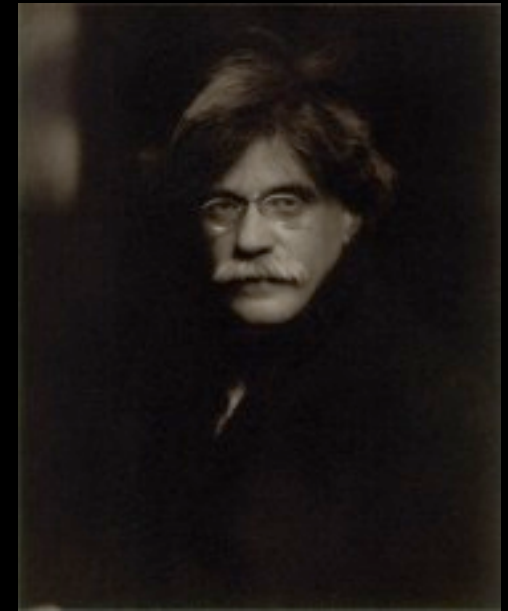
Alfred Stieglitz



Cezanne



Matisse



Alfred loved modern art and tried to get people interested in modern European artists like Paul Cezanne and Henri Matisse...



Marin



Hartley

...and American artists like John Marin and Marsden Hartley. Georgia didn't know it at the time but, in a few years, Alfred would help get people interested in her paintings, too.

Texas



After finishing school, Georgia decided to teach art for a while and traveled to Texas to take a job there. Georgia loved the clear skies and hot bright sun in Texas. She felt the energy and power of dust storms and of the heat lightning she saw at night.

Georgia started to show the excitement she felt about Texas in her paintings. Soon, her work looked different from the work of any other artist. Alfred saw Georgia's new works and began to believe she could become one of the best American artists ever.





Alfred wrote a letter to Georgia and asked her to come back to New York. He told her he could raise enough money so she wouldn't have to work and could spend all of her time painting. He also offered to show her artwork in his gallery.

Georgia found it hard to leave the beauty of Texas, but decided Alfred's offer was too good to pass up.



"Special No. 21: Palo Duro Canyon in Texas"

by Georgia O'Keeffe

Back to New York

After she arrived in New York, Georgia began painting bold shapes and designs, covering her canvases with bright color. Soon her work changed and she began painting the beautiful flowers that helped to make her famous.



Flowers

Georgia usually made her flowers very large. She hoped they would make people feel the same wonderful way she felt when she looked at real flowers. Georgia thought her large flowers might even get busy New Yorkers to stop and notice them.



“When you take a flower in your hand and really look at it, it's your world for the moment. I want to give that world to someone else. Most people in the city rush around so, they have no time to look at a flower. I want them to see it whether they want to or not.” Georgia O’Keeffe

Budding Artist

Georgia's paintings got attention right away. At first, people were curious to see the work of a woman artist. In the 1920s, there weren't many well-known women artists. People liked what they saw.

"I hate flowers -- I paint them because they're cheaper than models and they don't move." Georgia O'Keeffe

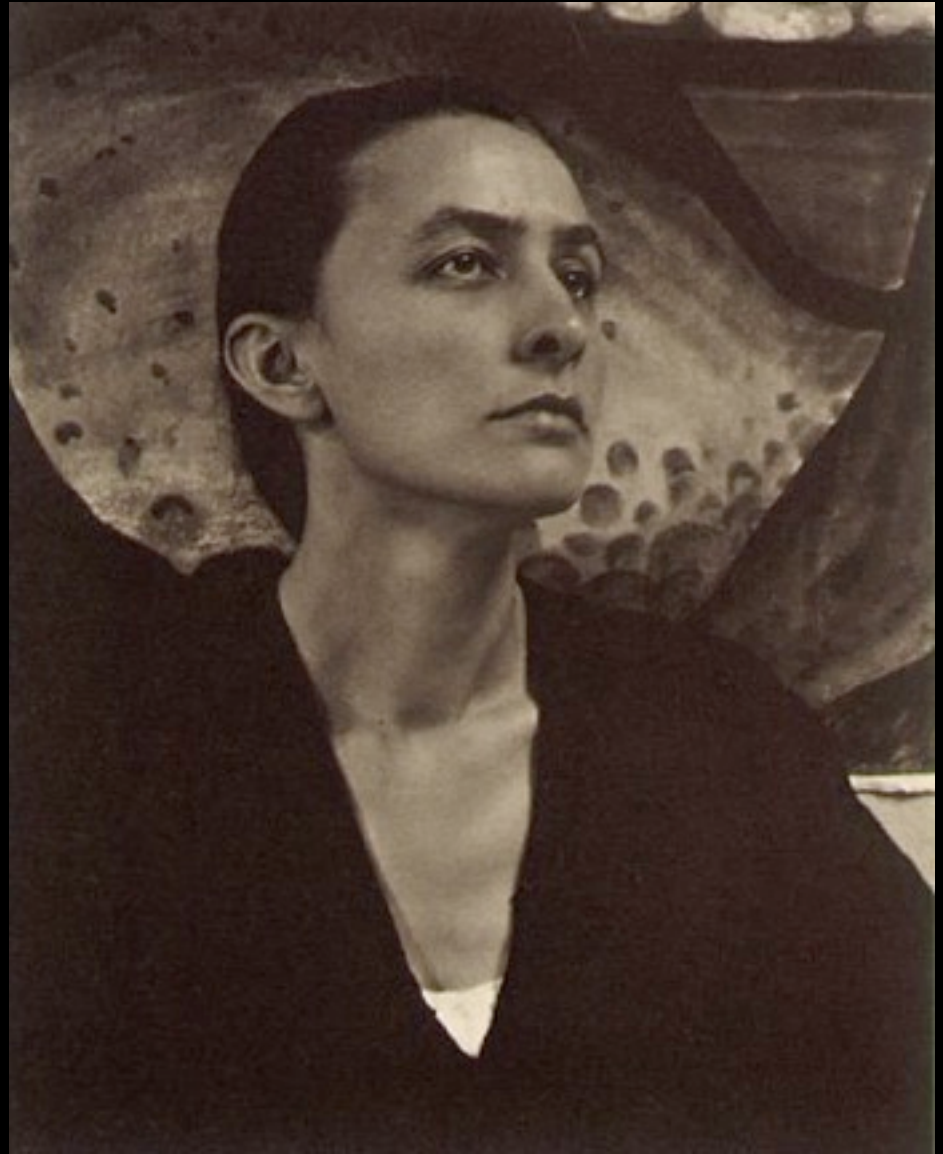


Close in Heart



Even though Georgia needed money to live she felt funny about selling her art. She worked very hard on them and felt so close to her paintings that she hated to see them leave the gallery. They were almost like her children.

In between painting and showing her work, Georgia agreed to model for Alfred Stieglitz. Alfred thought Georgia was very beautiful and took many famous photographs of her.



Alfred and Georgia had respected each other's talent for a long time. Now that Georgia was living in New York and working closely with Alfred, they decided to get married in 1924.

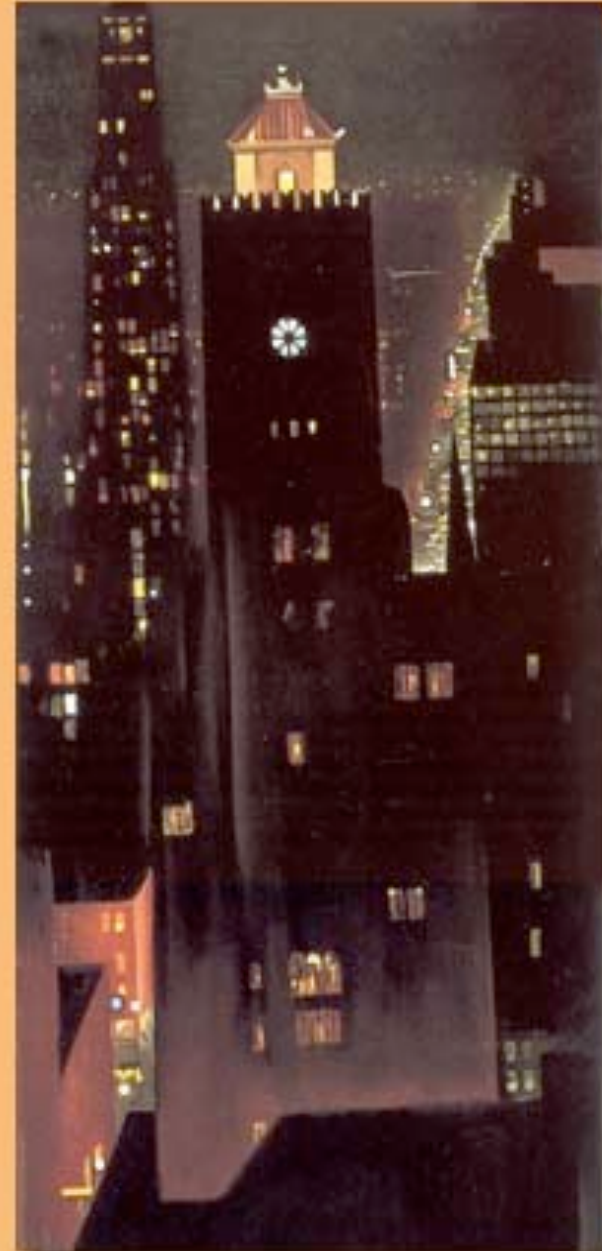


"Jimson Weed"

by Georgia O'Keeffe, 1932

Towering Images

They moved into an apartment high up in a big hotel. Georgia loved the wide-open view she saw and started painting pictures of the city. This surprised people because, in the 1920s, powerful city scenes were usually done only by men.



New Mexico

Several years later, Georgia was invited out west to visit some friends in New Mexico. She thought the desert and clear blue skies were even more exciting than the scenery in Texas. Georgia began painting the animal bones, desert flowers, and sun-baked adobe churches she found there.



"Cow Skull with Calico Roses"

by Georgia O'Keeffe

Mountains in New Mexico



“Long Pink Hills” by Georgia O’Keeffe, 1940

Georgia especially loved the mountains in New Mexico. They seemed almost alive to her. In some paintings, you might get the feeling that Georgia’s mountains could get up and move around.

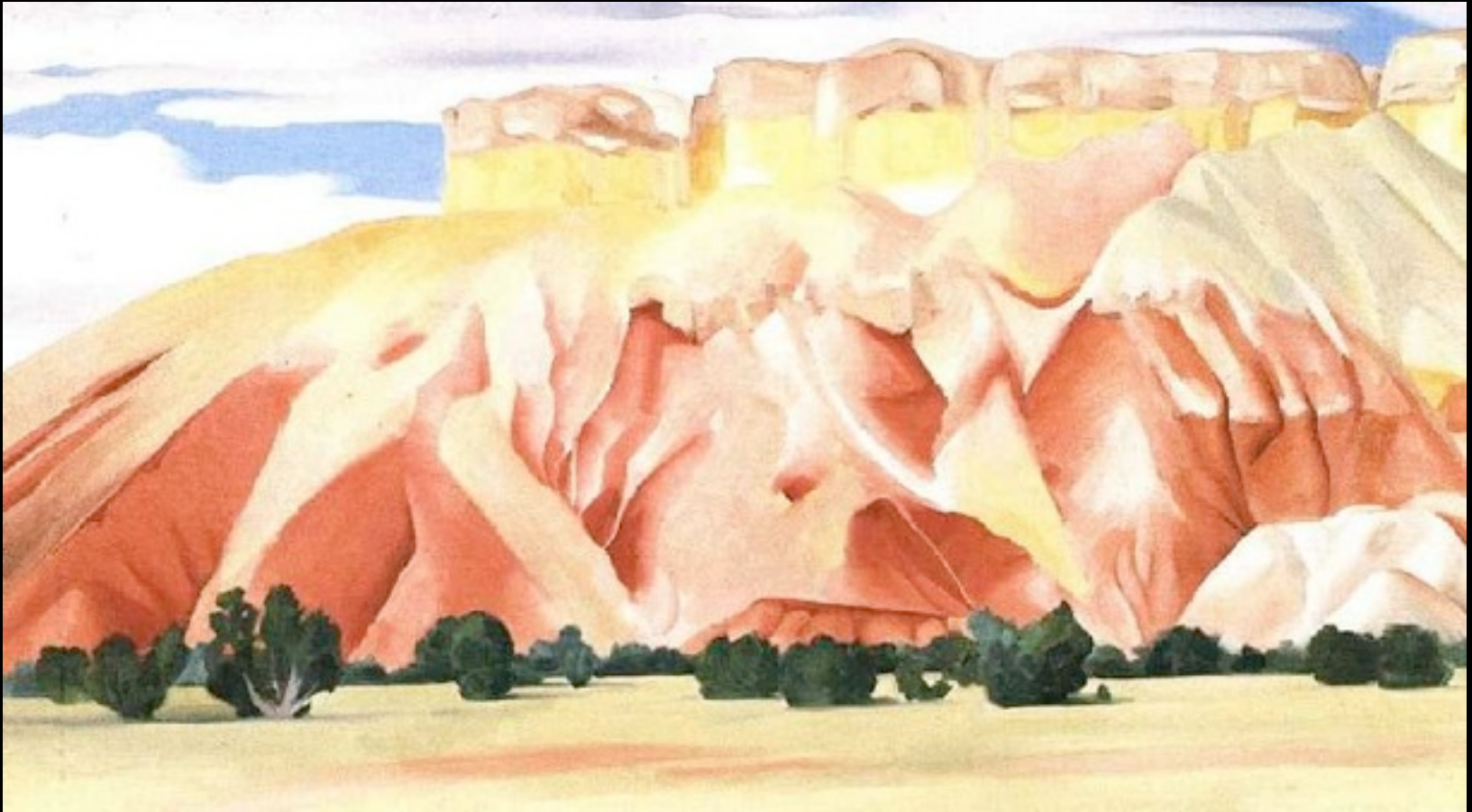
New Mexico, New Ideas



"Ranchos Church" by Georgia O'Keeffe, 1930

Georgia spent most of the rest of her life painting in New Mexico. Alfred agreed it was the best place for her to be in order to make her paintings as good as possible.

New Mexico, New Home



"My Backyard" by Georgia O'Keeffe

Georgia only traveled back to New York for a few months every year to be with Alfred and show her work. Years later, after Alfred died, Georgia moved to New Mexico for good.

Subject Matter



“Sky Above Clouds IV” by Georgia O’Keeffe, 1965

Even though Georgia was interested in all kinds of natural things, she hardly ever painted pictures of people or (live) animals.



"Pelvis Series: Red with Yellow" by Georgia O'Keeffe, 1945

Georgia often rearranged the natural things she saw and simplified them.



"Blue and Green Music"
by Georgia O'Keeffe, 1919

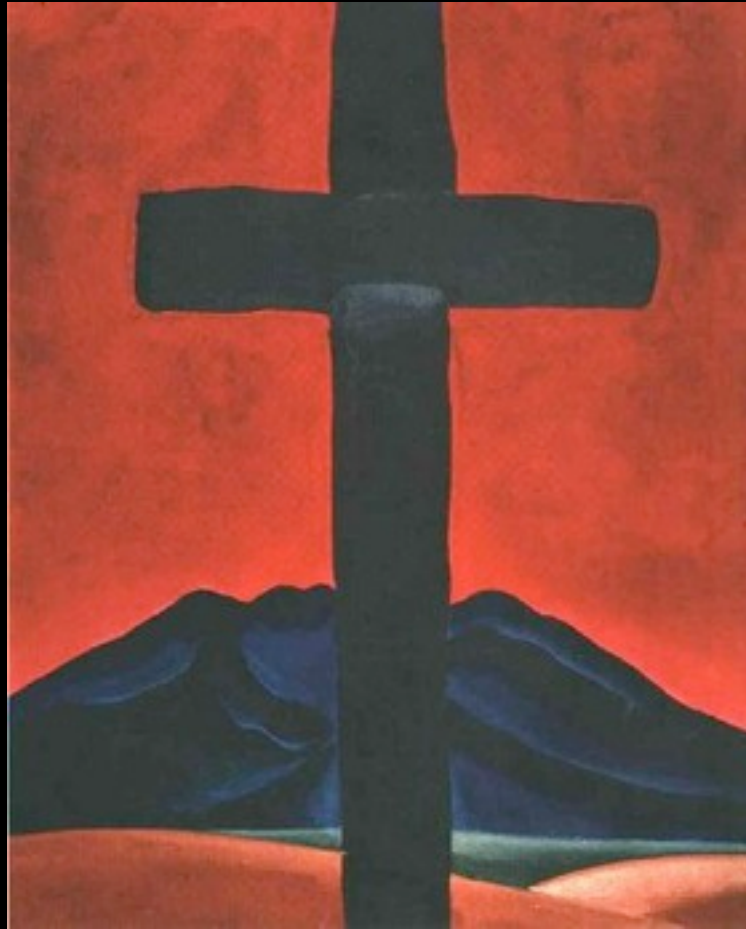
Sometimes she painted shapes and colors she saw in her mind.



"I found I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn't say in any other way— things that I had no words for."

Georgia O'Keeffe, at an exhibition in 1923

Georgia O'Keeffe
lived to be 98 years
old. She became an
artist at a time when
it was proper only for
women to *teach* art.



"Black Cross with Red Sky"
by Georgia O'Keeffe

Georgia didn't care
what people thought
about her or her art.
She worked hard on
her paintings and put
her special feeling
into them.



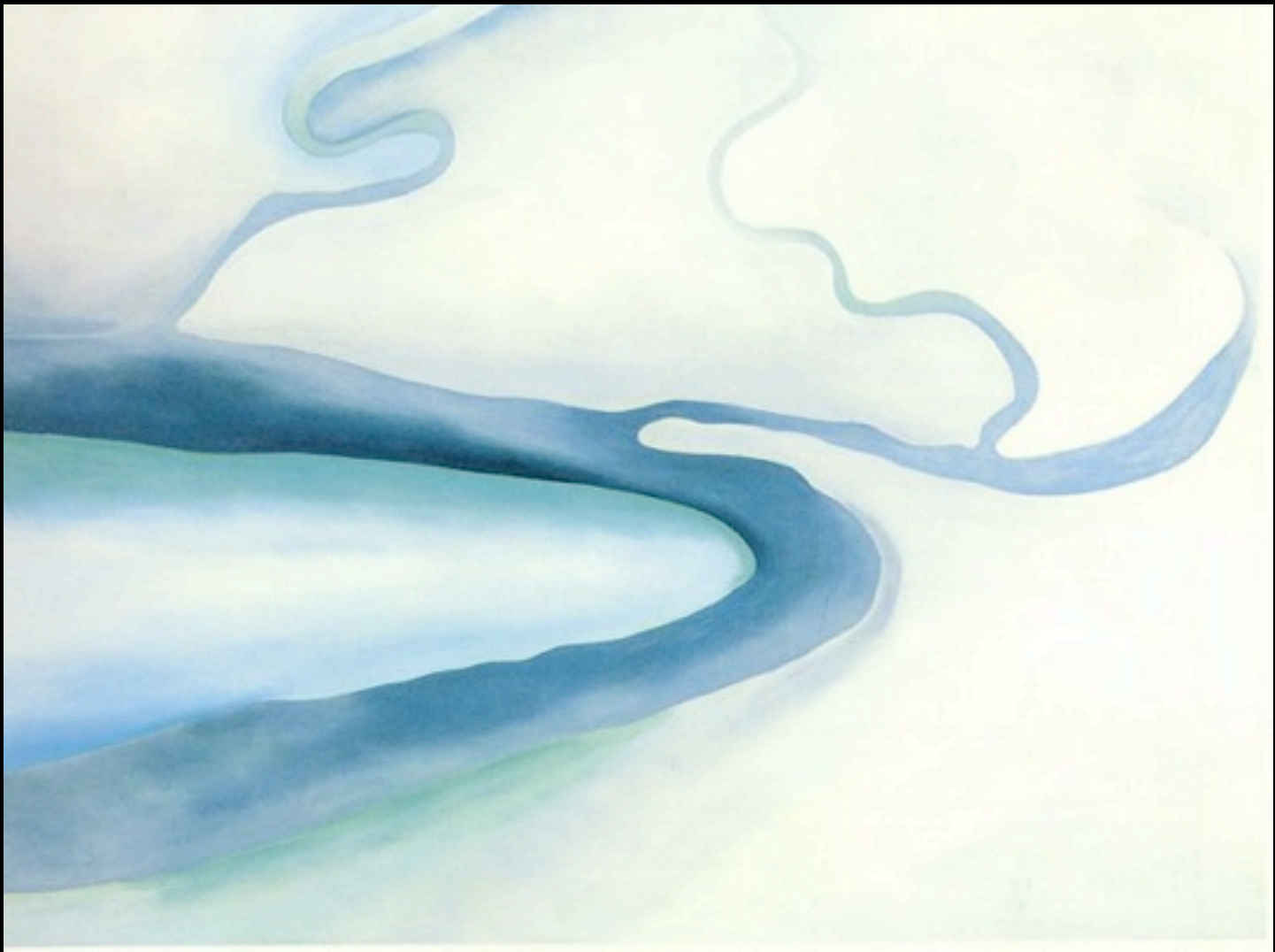
"An Orchid"
by Georgia O'Keeffe

Georgia met many famous artists during her life. She learned a lot from them but never copied their styles or joined their groups.



“Mountain in New Mexico”

by Georgia O’Keeffe, 1931



"It was Blue and Green" by Georgia O'Keeffe

Because of this, Georgia O'Keeffe's paintings are very original. She often found beauty in things that most people would ignore or never even notice, and was able to show that beauty in her paintings.

The Art of Georgia O'Keeffe



"Music Pink and Blue"

by Georgia O'Keeffe



“Grey Line with Black, Blue and Yellow” by Georgia O’Keeffe, 1923



"From the Lake" by Georgia O'Keeffe





"Evening Star No. VI"
by Georgia O'Keeffe, 1917



"Sunset on Long Island"
by Georgia O'Keeffe, 1939



“From the Plains II”
by Georgia O’Keeffe, 1954



"Lawrence Tree" by Georgia O'Keeffe, 1929



"Black Mesa Landscape, New Mexico – Out Back of Marie's II"
by Georgia O'Keeffe, 1930



"Goat's Horn with Red"
by Georgia O'Keeffe



"Pelvis IV"
by Georgia O'Keeffe, 1944



"Cow's Skull -- Red, White and Blue"
by Georgia O'Keeffe, 1931



"Red Snapdragons"
by Georgia O'Keeffe, 1923



"Oriental Poppies" by Georgia O'Keeffe, 1928



"Poppy" by Georgia O'Keeffe, 1927





"Poppies" by Georgia O'Keeffe, 1950



"Black Iris"

by Georgia O'Keeffe





"Not From My Garden" by Georgia O'Keeffe



"Red Canna" by Georgia O'Keeffe, 1923



"Calla Lilies with Red Anemone" by Georgia O'Keeffe



"Yellow Calla" by Georgia O'Keeffe, 1926



"Black and Purple Petunias" by Georgia O'Keeffe, 1925



"Morning Glory with Black" by Georgia O'Keeffe, 1926



"Red Flower" by Georgia O'Keeffe, 1918

Georgia O'Keeffe

1887 - 1986

"Nobody sees a flower, really – it is so small
– we haven't time, and to see takes time,
like to have a friend takes time."

Georgia O'Keeffe



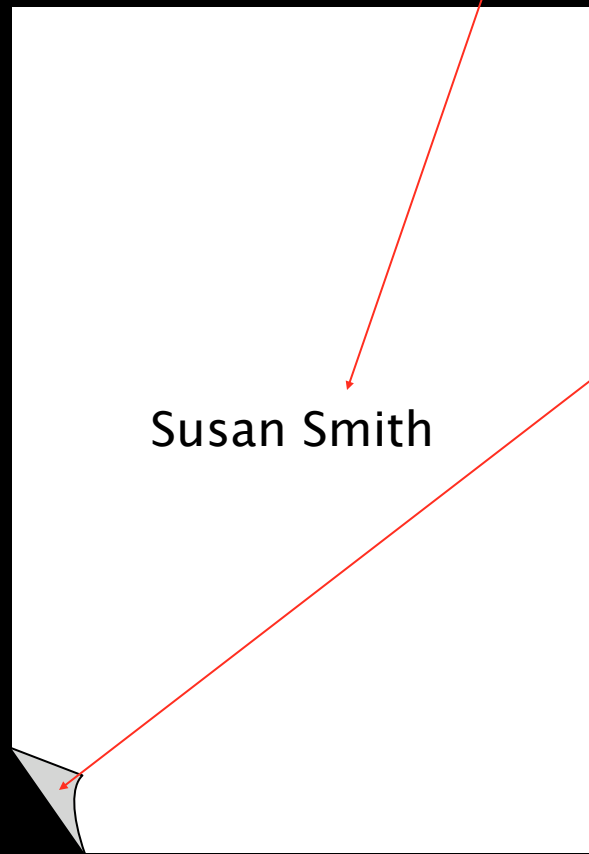
Our Masterpiece



"Light Iris" by Georgia O'Keeffe, 1924

NOW YOU DO IT!

Write your name on the paper then flip it over.



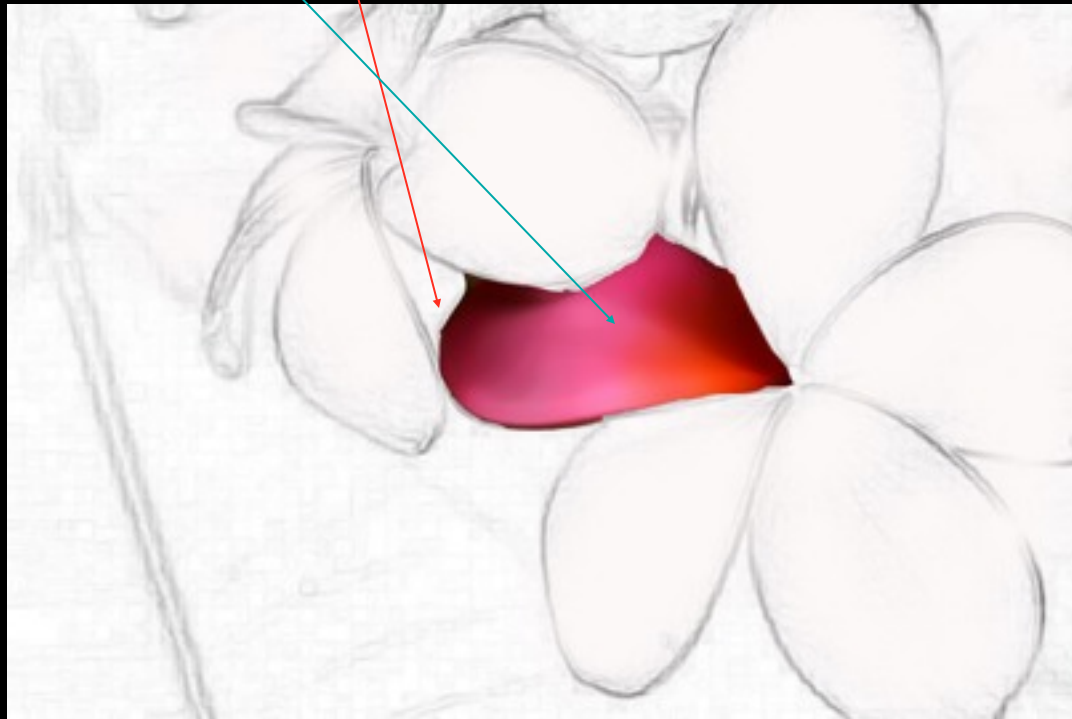
- Choose a flower photo.



- **LIGHTLY** sketch outlines – **NO DETAILS!**



- Hard edges are created by applying paint to dry paper.
- Soft, blended colors are created by dampening the paper with water first, then applying paint



- Make sure you paint the background, too!



Place your painting on one of the shelves around the room.

Throw away your newspaper.

Put away your art supplies.

Take a word search/activity sheet.

