

## Georgia O’Keeffe ~ 1887-1986

### Three Words We Will Use Today:

- Tone: warm or cool colors in a painting
- Saturation: intensity of color in a painting
- Modern: time period starting at the beginning of the 20th century

### Georgia O’Keeffe (black & white taken by Alfred Stieglitz)

Georgia O’Keeffe, a painter of the American Modern movement in art, is famous for her paintings of flowers and bones. She was born in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, in 1887. A vacation to Taos, New Mexico, in 1929 altered her life and the direction of her art forever. In love with the open skies and sunny landscape, O’Keeffe returned there every summer to travel and to paint. When her husband, photographer Alfred Steiglitz died in 1946, she took up permanent residence in NM where she lived until her death in 1986 when she was 98 years old.

### Jack in the Pulpit IV, 1930

O’Keeffe’s flowers are saturated with deep, rich colors that fill the canvas. Rather than focus on lots of small details, she made the small details the subject of the whole painting.

### Jack in the Pulpit V, 1930

This is the same type of flower found in the previous slide, but is it painted the same? Is it warm or cool toned?

### Red Cana, 1923 Oil on canva

O’Keeffe decided to paint the flowers big - very big! — so people would take the time to really look at them. An enlargement of the tiniest of petals often filled a 30x40” canvas with emphasis on shape and lines – resulting in an abstract appearance.

### An Orchid, 1951

A closeup of a part of an orchid, is this painting as rich in saturation as previous paintings you’ve seen?

### Black and White, 1930

Instead of a representation of nature, this painting is an abstract focusing on form and flow. Do you get a feeling of movement from these shapes?

### Summer Days, 1936, Oil on canvas

O’Keeffe was fascinated by the bleached bones she found. They did not symbolize death to her; instead, she was drawn to their shapes. The first year she visited NM there were no flowers so she began to collect the bones. “When I found the beautiful white bones on the desert, I picked them up and took them home...I have used these things to say what is to me the wideness and wonder of the world as I live it.”

### Pelvis Series Red and Yellow, 1945

When O'Keeffe started painting bones, she was more interested in the holes and what she saw through them—the sky and earth. This is an extreme close-up of the pelvis or hip bone with the sky shining through. She would sometimes change the color of the sky viewed from the bone.

**Morning Glory, 1935**

Now it's your turn to paint a morning glory in the style of Georgia O'Keeffe.