

Georgia O'Keeffe Museum

Day 1: Exploring Watercolor with Different Techniques

This activity aims to explore the effects of different techniques with watercolor paint.

Materials: Watercolor, paper paint brush, cup for water, paper towel, salt, plastic wrap

Directions: First use a sheet of paper to explore and experiment with the different techniques.
Watercolor techniques:

Wet on wet:

1. Start by wetting your brush with plain water and applying water to an area of your paper with your paint brush.
2. Moisten the paint in your paint palette and add the color to the wet area of your paper.
3. When painting wet-on-wet, we don't have much control over how our paint reacts. The more water that was applied to the paper before the paint is added, the more the paint will spread on the paper and it will also be more translucent.

Wet on dry:

1. Moisten the paint in your paint palette and add the color to a dry area of your paper.
2. When painting wet-on-dry, you have much more control over where your paint goes and the paint is more opaque.

Salt

1. After applying watercolor to the paper and while it is still wet sprinkle a tiny amount of salt over the watercolor. It will create splotches within the paint.
2. Let the paint dry, and then rub off the salt.

Plastic Wrap

1. Plastic wrap creates texture when put over wet watercolor on paper. Lay the plastic wrap over wet paint.
2. Allow the paint to dry completely then remove the plastic wrap.



After experimenting with the different techniques use them to create your own image. Choose an image from a magazines or book to recreate. You are also welcome to use your imagination! Use the different techniques to create texture and form.

Georgia O'Keeffe. *Sunrise and Little Clouds No. II*, 1916. Watercolor on paper, 8 7/8 x 12 inches.
Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. Gift of The Burnett Foundation. © Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. [1997.18.1]

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Day 2: Abstract Memories

Through this activity you will explore how to express emotions and experience in abstract art.

Abstraction is using colors, lines, and shapes to make something FEEL the way you want it to, it does not need to look like something realistic!

Materials: Paper, watercolors or oil pastels or colored pencils

Directions:

1. Number 1-4 on a small section of paper and brainstorm and think of four of your happiest or favorite memories. Next to those memories, write colors and emotions that you associate with the memory.
2. Once you have brainstormed ideas, begin painting or drawing an abstraction of your first memory using the colors and emotions you listed.
3. After 5 minutes, rotate your paper and move on to painting or drawing memory number 2. Repeat for memory 3 and 4. By the end they should have an abstract piece viewable at every orientation. If desired, add 5 minutes for the girls to go around and share one or all of the memories and how they depicted them in their artwork.

Thoughts: It can be helpful to have an example or 2 to show the girls how they can combine all 4 memories on to one page without mixing the water colors too much to the point of being muddy.

Variations: Can be done with acrylic or tempera paint or really any medium. Watercolors work well because of their transparency and the overlapping of the memory representations.



Georgia O'Keeffe. *Series I - From the Plains, 1919*. Oil on canvas, 27 7/16 x 23 1/2 inches. Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. Gift of The Burnett Foundation. © Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. [2007.1.13]



Georgia O'Keeffe. *Abstraction White, 1927*. Oil on canvas, 34 x 14 inches. Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. Gift of The Burnett Foundation. © Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. [2007.1.20]

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Day 3: Seasonal Landscapes

Georgia O'Keeffe sometimes would revisit the same subject matter in her artwork and depict it in different seasons throughout the year. Through this activity you will create four pieces of artwork of the same landscape in different seasons.

Materials: Paper, pencil and watercolor paints

Directions:

1. Find a landscape you would like to recreate in an artwork. It can be a view from your home, or an image you find in a book, magazine or on the internet. Or it could be an image of landscape from your memory or imagination.
2. Now you will create four drawings or paintings of that landscape in summer, fall, spring and winter.
3. For a variation, you could try to include all four seasons in one artwork, what would that look like?



Georgia O'Keeffe. Cottonwood Tree in Spring, 1943. Oil on canvas, 30 1/16 x 36 1/8 inches. Gift of The Burnett Foundation. © Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. [1997.6.16]



Georgia O'Keeffe. Winter Trees, Abiquiu, III, 1950. Oil on canvas, 25 3/8 x 31 inches. Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. Gift of The Georgia O'Keeffe Foundation. © Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. [2006.5.229]

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Days 4 and 5: Dream Home

In the summer of 1929, Georgia O'Keeffe made the first of many trips to northern New Mexico. The stark landscape of the region inspired a new direction in O'Keeffe's art. For the next two decades she spent most summers living and working in New Mexico. She made the state her permanent home in 1949, and owned two homes here. Through this activity you will explore what you would see as a dream home for yourself.

Materials: Paper and a variety of art materials

Directions:

1. Brainstorm what would be included in your dream home. Where would it be? What would the landscape look like? Who would be there with you? What items would be in your home? What colors would be included? Write out a list of all ideas that come to mind.
2. Begin a drawing of your dream home. Create a drawing of the outside, the inside, the landscape surrounding it, furnish your home it.
3. Get creative!



Georgia O'Keeffe Ghost Ranch House, Exterior, 2011. Herbert Lotz. © Herbert Lotz.