

# Georgia O'Keeffe



Petunia and Coleus 1924  
Oil on Canvas - 35.75" x 29.75"  
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert H. Kinney

# Artistic Emphasis

Georgia O'Keefe (1887-1986) is known for her larger than life pictures and unusual use of color.

Born in an era when no one believed that women could be "serious artists," Georgia O'Keefe's talent and strength of vision led her to defy convention. Along the way she taught the world two important lessons: 1) women can be very successful artists, and 2) it is important for artists to create in their own way, not just copy the works and methods of earlier artists.

During her lifetime, O'Keefe made more than 200 flower paintings. Her novel use of radical, intense color combinations and large sized canvases helped create a sense of intimacy for the viewer, as though they had stepped into the flower itself. She painted flowers the way she experienced them – as all-encompassing natural forms. Viewers often stop and think about how much beauty is contained in the small things around them.

## Project Description

Students pretend they are bugs looking at flowers. They use oil pastels to draw a "bug's eye view" of silk flowers.

## Advance Preparation

- Schedule a date with your teacher. Remember to check the on-line calendar for conflicts first. E-mail Sara [sara@kurensky.org](mailto:sara@kurensky.org) and Julie [jageyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jageyer@sbcglobal.net) with the new date so they can post it on-line.
- One week prior to your date, check the Fine Arts supply room to make sure all the supplies are in the cabinet.
- The volunteer making the presentation should read through the handbook, located in the Fine Arts supply room, and become familiar with the project narrative and visuals.
- **NOTE:** Although there are silk flowers in the supply room, in the past some volunteers have brought in fresh flowers on the day of the project.
- Recommended number of volunteers: 3