

O'Keeffe as Influencer

Tour and Studio Program for Grades 6–12 of *The Beyond: Georgia O'Keeffe and Contemporary Art*

Tour Learning Objectives

Students will learn about:

- O'Keeffe as an innovator in the art world and her influence on contemporary art today
- O'Keeffe's life story and artistic influences
- The different themes and techniques of the emerging contemporary artists in the exhibition

Visual Arts Standards

- 6.V.1.3 Identify artists' styles.
- 7.V.1.3 Identify themes in art.
- 8.CR.1.1 Use convincing and logical arguments to respond to art.
- 8.CX.1.1 Understand the role of visual arts in North Carolina and the United States in relation to history and geography.

Pre-visit Activities

Before your visit, consider doing one of the activities listed below to help prepare your students.

How many followers does it take to make an impact on the world of art? Students will analyze O'Keeffe's works alongside contemporary art to analyze how she continues to influence artists today.

Show students the image on the right and ask the following questions to guide their observations:

- Describe what you notice in this image.
- How would you describe the relationship between the mountains and the backbone?
- Why did O'Keeffe choose to make the mountains blue?
- Why do you think she placed the enlarged backbone above the mountains?



Georgia O'Keeffe, *Flying Backbone*, 1944, oil on canvas, 11 x 25 ¼ in., Alfred Stieglitz Collection, co-owned by Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, and Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas; © 2018 Georgia O'Keeffe Museum; Photograph: Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art/Edward C. Robinson III

Pre-visit Activities (Continued)

Before your visit, consider doing one of the activities listed below to help prepare your students.

Meet Georgia O’Keeffe: Use NCMA Learn to learn about [Georgia O’Keeffe’s life](#) and work. Then, view this two-minute [video](#) of O’Keeffe in New Mexico talking about her inspiration.

Meet the Contemporary Artists: Watch video interview with the contemporary artist in the exhibition on [NCMA Learn](#).

Influence web: Ask students to identify something they do because they were influenced by one or more people, and then to represent it visually. If they’ve influenced someone else to do the same thing, ask them to represent that, too. Offer a graphic organizer [like this one](#) if desired; students can put themselves in the center and identify the different influences on them and their influences, too.

What makes it an O’Keeffe? Look at [Cebolla Church](#) by Georgia O’Keeffe and read the quote from the artist. Based on this work, what principles or guidelines did O’Keeffe set for herself when she painted? What do you think she wanted you to understand about this building?

Sense of place: View a [time-lapse video](#) of Georgia O’Keeffe’s home at Ghost Ranch. Look at [Cebolla Church](#) in the North Carolina Museum of Art’s collection. Based on what you see in the painting and the video, how do you think living in this environment influenced O’Keeffe as an artist? What did she bring to her painting from her experience in New Mexico?

Post-visit Activities

After your visit, consider doing one of the activities listed below to extend learning.

O’Keeffe-Inspired Still Life: Encourage students to bring in natural objects from home, or take a walk around the school building to collect found objects. Have students work in small groups to make a collaborative still life. Create a viewfinder by cutting a square or rectangle out of an index card or tagboard. Have students move the viewfinder around to select one small portion of the image covering unwanted parts of the picture. Create an abstract composition inspired by O’Keeffe’s use of tightly cropped compositions and flat colors.

Close to Home Landscape: Find images of Raleigh or your home. Make a drawing of that place in the style of Georgia O’Keeffe, by using cropping, removing detail, enlarging the subject, and other techniques she used to create her works.

Who’s Not There? The website *The Art Story* includes an influences and connections chart for each featured artist. Look at the chart for [Georgia O’Keeffe](#). What contemporary artist or artists do you think should be added to the “influenced by” portion of this website? Explain why. If you have digital capabilities, allow students to post a new “influenced artist” slide and their explanation in a collaborative slideshow such as with Google slides or Microsoft PowerPoint.

O’Keeffe’s Influence on Pop Culture. Georgia O’Keeffe’s influence extended beyond the visual arts to affect fashion, design, and even food. Watch this [video](#) from PBS to see how a cooking show found inspiration in O’Keeffe’s art.