

If Georgia Came to North Carolina

Tour and Studio Program for Grades 3–5 for *The Beyond: Georgia O’Keeffe and Contemporary Art*

Tour Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Learn about O’Keeffe as an innovator in the art world (exploring her use of space, scale, and abstraction, selection of subject matter, etc.).
- Identify the most common themes that O’Keeffe explored with her work such as flowers, bodies, still lifes, city and desert landscapes, and abstraction.
- Express their creativity using O’Keeffe as inspiration for their own art.

Visual Arts Standards

- 3.CR.1.2 Evaluate the compositional and expressive qualities of personal works of art.
- 4.CX.1.4 Explain how place and time influence ideas, issues, and themes found in art.
- 5.V.1.3 Classify works of art in terms of whether they are realistic, abstract, or non-objective.

English Language Arts

- CCR Anchor Standard R.6—Assess how point of view, perspective, or purpose shapes the content and style of a text

Pre-visit Activities

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

During this tour and studio program, students will explore landscapes, cityscapes, and flowers in the exhibition and create O’Keeffe-inspired art using local objects found in nature.

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

- Describe what you notice in this image.
- Where do you think O’Keeffe might have been when she painted this? Was she somewhat close to the foothills or far away?



Georgia O’Keeffe, *Small Purple Hills*, 1934, oil on panel, 16 x 19 ¾ in., Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas, 2006.11; © 2018 Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas; Photograph: Amon Carter Museum of American Art

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. Be aware that this site discusses misinformed assumptions about the sexuality associated with her work, so it may be more of a teacher resource than for student reading. Your class could view this two-minute [video](#) of O’Keeffe in New Mexico talking about her inspiration and painting.

See New Mexico: Look at photographs from the site [Beautiful New Mexico](#) from USA Today, [34 Photographs of New Mexico that will make you want to move there](#), or view a [New Mexico Game and Fish Department](#) video to see varied landscapes and people in New Mexico.

City Life: Show *Radiator Building—Night, New York, 1927* and discuss how skyscrapers were new at the time O’Keeffe painted this cityscape. Skyscrapers were a source of pride for cities and demonstrated the best and newest design, materials, and technology available.

Post-visit Activities

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

Zoom In: Provide magazines, calendars, and other landscape images for students to choose from. 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. What happens when you change the composition? Students could draw or paint this new cropped image.

Convince an Artist: Georgia O’Keeffe was struck by the landscapes she saw in New York City and New Mexico. What would you say about North Carolina’s landscapes or other natural wonders to a contemporary American artist to convince them to come here? Write a postcard explaining what makes North Carolina worth a visit. On the other side, draw or paint the place this artist should visit.

Overcoming Fear: A well-known quote from Georgia O’Keeffe is “I’ve been absolutely terrified every moment of my life—and I’ve never let it keep me from doing a single thing I wanted to do.” Use this quote to begin a group conversation using the following questions:

- What does the quote mean to you?
- When have you let fear keep you from doing something you’ve wanted to do?
- Think of a time when you tried something new or took a risk and it was definitely worth it. What helped you take the leap?
- What risks would you like to take as an artist in the coming month? What about in other areas of your life?