

Making a Mark on Modernism

Tour and Studio Program for Grades 6–12 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.).
- O’Keeffe’s life story and artistic influences.
- The different themes and techniques of the emerging contemporary artists in the exhibition.
- Using O’Keeffe’s techniques to create their own original composition of the natural world.

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.
- B.V.1.1 Use art vocabulary when discussing art and artistic styles.
- I.V.1.3 Understand the use of global themes, symbols, and subject matter in art.
- P.V.1.1 Use art vocabulary to analyze compositions.
- A.V.1.1 Use art vocabulary to explain compositional choices.

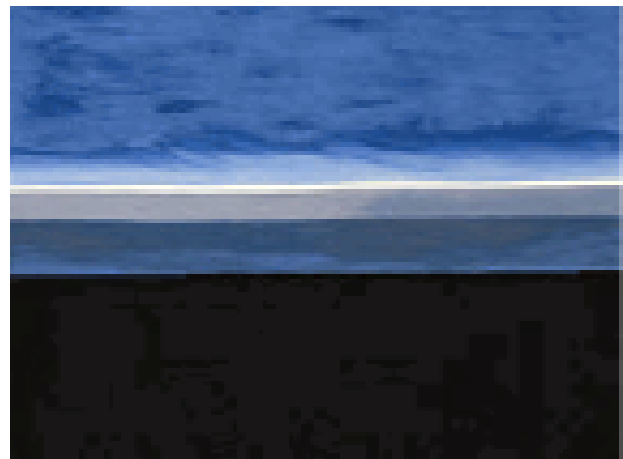
Pre-visit Activities (Continued)

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

During this tour and studio program, students will learn about O’Keeffe’s groundbreaking compositions through a docent-led discussion and then create original abstract designs inspired by her use of color and cropping.

Show students the image on the right and ask the following questions to guide their close looking through a Think/Pair/Share:

- Think: After one minute of looking at the image, list what you see.
- Pair: Turn to a classmate to compare lists. What common themes or big ideas do you find when you compare your lists? What in the work suggests those big ideas?
- Share with the class: Have one student compile the big ideas as the class shares. As a group, look at the list of themes or big ideas. As some words are shared, ask students to talk about what in the painting suggests that word to them and why.



Georgia O’Keeffe, *The Beyond*, 1972, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 in., Georgia O’Keeffe Museum, gift of The Georgia O’Keeffe Foundation (2006.05.460); © 2018 Georgia O’Keeffe Museum; Photograph: Georgia O’Keeffe Museum

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 and painting.

Meet the Contemporary Artists: Learn about the contemporary artists in the exhibition on [NCMA Learn](#) and discuss how their art might reference O’Keeffe’s work.

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.

Matters of Size: Ask students to select an object in the classroom and discuss what would happen if it were 10 or 100 times its original size. Use a ruler to show what happens when a small object is 10 times its original size. How does changing the size of the object make you think about it differently?

O’Keeffe’s Contemporaries: Look at art from other American artists of the time including Alma Thomas, John Sloan, Everett Shin, Arthur Dove, Charles Sheeler, Romare Bearden, and Edward Hopper.

Post-visit Activities

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

Convince an Artist: Georgia O’Keeffe was struck by the landscapes she saw in New York City and New Mexico. What would you say to a contemporary American artist about North Carolina’s landscapes or other natural wonders 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.

Modernist Motivational Posters: 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.” Discuss with your class its meaning. Then, have students find quotes by O’Keeffe and illustrate them, thinking about their choice of color, line, shapes, and typography to evoke meaning. If technology is available, students could create digital posters to display throughout your school.

What Would Georgia Do? Create a drawing or painting that uses some of the same techniques that Georgia O’Keeffe used (cropping, enlarging, and omitting details) to depict a flower, still life, or landscape. As you create, consider how to incorporate one or more of the following qualities: cropped, larger than actual size, abstract, fluidity, crispness, spiral, convergence, rise, movement, stillness, or curviness.