O'Keeffe Crayon Resist Flowers

Unit: Organic shape (Georgia O'Keeffe) - Observational drawing
Lesson: Drawing plants from life
Grade Level: 1-2

GENERALIZATION:
Curvilinear lines make organic shapes.

Brief Description of Lesson:
Students observe and draw plant forms.

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES (What the Teacher Does)
1. Introduces O'Keeffe paintings, asking students to identify kinds of lines that define edges of flowers.
2. Showing a real plant, asks students to identify lines that define edges.
3. Models observing a plant without drawing (look at the plant to see all the types of lines that give the plant its shape).
4. Models drawing while looking at the plant (Draw the plant large enough that it reaches out and touches all the edges of the paper. While you draw press harder in areas that stand out to you and lightly in others).

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:
How are organic shapes made?
How do artists use organic shapes?
Where do artists get ideas?

Resources:
Art objects: Georgia O'Keeffe’s, Calla Lily Turned Away, Petunias, or other similar images

Art Materials: Oil pastels (or choice of drawing materials like crayons or watercolor paint), 12" x 18" white drawing paper (or choice of colored construction paper), assorted plants (A local florist or green house may donate use of their plants for this lesson)

Target Learning: The student:
Knows and uses curved lines to create organic shapes.
Recognizes and uses organic lines to create plant forms.
Understands and uses varying pressure to draw.
Sees nature as a source for ideas
Develops skills in observational drawing
Identifies organic forms/shapes in art

Assessment Criteria: The student:
Uses curved lines to create the curvilinear edge of an organic shape.
Uses organic lines to represent observed plants.
Uses firm and light pressure with drawing tools as seen in lightness and width of line.
CREATIVE PROCESS (What the Student Does)
1. Observes and identifies types of lines in painting reproductions and traces fingers over curvilinear lines.
2. Observes and identifies types of lines in living plant and traces fingers over curvilinear lines.
3. Looks at and then draws plant using choice of drawing materials - or paint.

Assessment Strategies:
Performance Assessment - modified rubric
Teacher journal (Drawing pressure)
Checklist

Evidence of Student Learning
Student drawings include plant forms made with curvilinear lines of different widths based on tool pressure.

Vocabulary:
curvilinear line
organic
pressure: hard, light

Life Applications:
Student recognizes kinds of lines in the natural and constructed world and draws with varying pressure. (ARTS EARLs 1.1 concepts and vocabulary. 1.2 skills and techniques (drawing pressure)

A follow-up on the life of Georgia O'Keeffe (just briefly - students could listen to Greg Percy's song “Georgia”.
Students could create movements/dance to act out the lines/shapes present in Georgia's works). You could show some additional prints showing organic shapes - like from Henri Rousseau or Matisse (and maybe some with geometric shapes to see the difference) and ask students to identify the organic shapes). Perhaps show a work that has both organic and geometric shapes, too. You might also introduce a three dimensional work with organic form.

Science extension: learn about the parts of the plant - life cycle of the plant (this ties in with 2nd grade science).

Reference for Science Integration:
Botany Photo of the Day - different high-quality photograph every day, complete with background information.
Visitors can also view the site’s archives, which date back to April 2005 and browse previously featured photographs, which are divided into categories. Art teachers have permission to use these photographs for this purpose.

Resources:
Georgia O'Keeffe Museum - You could call this the official site.
Georgia O'Keeffe Online - Artcyclopedia
Wikipedia's O'Keeffe page
PBS American Masters - This is their Georgia O'Keeffe page.
Georgia O'Keeffe images - From Carol Gerten's Fine Art Biography This site has advertising. Check before using with students.
Great O'Keeffe Bio by Ellen. The young artist, years with Stieglitz and in New Mexico. Shows representative work from different times in her life.
Georgia O'Keeffe images from Happy Shadows (Archive) bones, landscapes, flowers, abstractions, trees, crosses and churches. Quality images.
Teacher-made Handout (See Ken's example)
**DVD's**

**Georgia O'Keeffe** - This star-studded movie is about the artist's life. Celebrated photographer and art impresario Alfred Steiglitz is shocked to learn that the extraordinary drawings he has recently discovered were rendered by a woman. Deciding to display the work of then-unknown artist Georgia O'Keeffe in his gallery without her knowledge, the fiercely private artist orders him to remove the collection.

**Georgia O'Keeffe A Life in Art** - This film is a very good short film on the life and paintings of Georgia O'Keeffe. Gene Hackman narrates.

**Great Women Artists: Georgia O'Keeffe** - The program provides an in-depth look into her life, and includes numerous examples of her works while examining her style which made her unique in the world of art. This original program also features spectacular imagery and many rare historical photographs.

**Books**

**Georgia O'Keeffe Museum Collections** - Georgia O'Keeffe has been the subject of many fine art books, but this generously designed volume is a standout. Published to mark the tenth anniversary of the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe, New Mexico, it showcases 335 works.

**Georgia O'Keeffe and New Mexico: A Sense of Place** - This book catalogs O'Keeffe’s work in side-by-side comparisons of 20 paintings with recent, commissioned, full-color photos of their actual sites, which pinpoint the exact perspective of the paintings.

Submitted by: Theresa Parker


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**O'Keeffe Glue & Watercolor Flowers**

**UNIT**: Still life - Georgia O'Keeffe - Nature - Color

**Lesson**: Glue Relief Flowers

**Grade Level**: 2-5

**Materials**: Elmer’s Washable Clear Glue dyed black with food dye (regular white glue will work, but doesn’t dry as clear); Construction Paper Crayons; Metallic Crayons; 9 X 12” or 12 X 18” Black Paper (construction paper) or white paper if coloring in spaces and background); water-soluble markers (use water and brush to fill in space colored by markers); watercolor paints; brushes; assorted plants or flowers (or silk flowers); drying rack or large flat surface (artworks with glue have to dry for 24 hours)
Instructions:
Students should have in front of them the black paper, a bottle of glue, and their flower. Students should work direct onto the paper (pencil lines will show through the glue). Looking at the picture, students should create a basic contour drawing of the flower in glue on the black paper. To create good glue lines, the bottle should ALWAYS be pulled (not pushed), and should also be SQUEEZED at the same time (there needs to be a fairly thick line of glue created). The glue will dry clear, and on black paper will look like shiny black. The glue drawings need to dry overnight (you can tell when it is dry).
Once the glue is dry, students can start to color (color). Students should aim for good dimension and texture, realistic colors (colors) are not necessarily important. Using the various crayons, water-soluble markers, or watercolor paints students should apply a thick amount of color, blending using different colored crayons. If crayon gets on the glue lines, they can be cleaned at the end with a slightly damp tissue and a fingernail. Optional - color negative space.

Submitted by: Sue Stevens