

Georgia O' Keefe

(1887-1986)

Realism



O'Keefe's Life

- Born 1887, on a large dairy farm in Wisconsin
- Studied at the Art Institute of Chicago & the Art Student's League in New York
- She taught art in public schools & became head of art department at a college in Texas
- 1929, spent a summer in New Mexico & fell in love with the dry, magical landscape & broad desert skies
- 1949, moved to New Mexico in 1949
- 1986, died, 98 years old



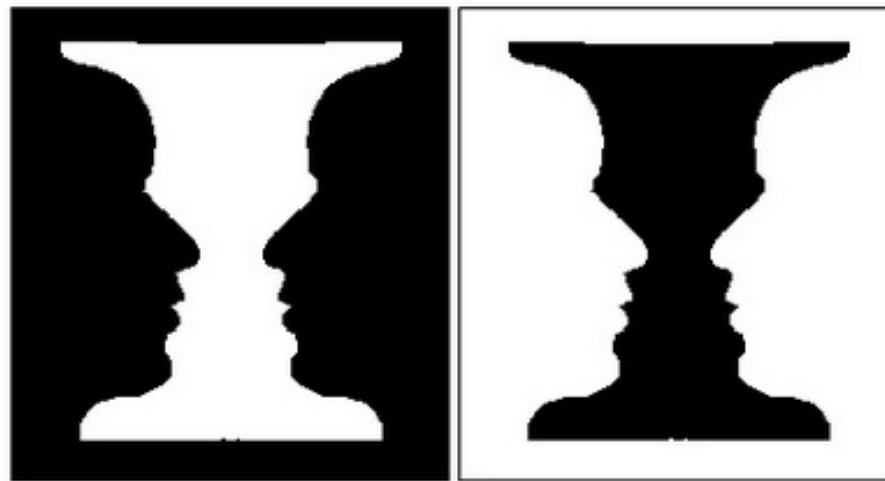
O'Keeffe's Art



- Magnification of an image
 - Many works (flowers and landscapes) are zoomed in to create a feeling of emotional closeness to the object
- After moving to New Mexico, focused on the desert scenery
 - For example, animal bones on the barren desert
- Known for her works of natural objects such as flowers, clouds, & animal skulls & bones
- Never painted people or any living creatures

Vocabulary Definitions

- **Realism:** Representing pieces in artwork in a true-to-life manner, using lifelike colors, textures, shadows, & proportions
- **Positive Space:** The main shapes or spaces in artwork - the space that is filled with something
- **Negative Space:** The space surrounding shapes in artwork – empty space



A Sunflower From Madaaie

How
does she
make the
flower
look
real?



Purple Petunias

“I found I could
say things with
color and shapes
that I couldn't say
any other way -
things I had no
words for.”

-O'Keeffe



Black Iris

Does
O'Keeffe
use one
flower or a
bunch of
flowers?



Red Canna

“I decided
that if I could
paint that
flower in a
huge scale,
you could not
ignore its
beauty.”
—O’Keeffe



Red Amaryllis

Does the
flower look
real or
abstract?



Cow's Skull with Calico Roses

“The days
you work are
the best
days.”

-O'Keeffe



Poppy

Do O'Keeffe's flowers fill the page and touch the edges or are they small and in the center of the page?





The Assignment

- Choose a flower from the front table and create 4 sketches of it at different cropped angles.
 - Just the outline and main lines to see composition and layout
- On canvas, Lightly draw out your cropped flower image, filling the space of the canvas.
- Use acrylic paint , 1st using pale colors then darker colors
 - Leave areas of white showing around the petals
- Create details in the flower with acrylic
 - Try mixing colors to create soft edges
 - Avoid outlining with dark, thick lines of paint
 - Try using color to create edges instead of outlining