

**5th Grade: February**  
**Lesson 4: Flowers Up Close**  
**Tempera**

**Objective:** To create a close-up painting of a flower detail

**Technique:** Drawing, painting with tempera, mixing colors

**Set-up: (before lesson starts, docent and aides)**

Newspaper to cover desks

Paper towels or napkins

Paint and brush caddy

9" x 12" white construction paper

Pencils

Plates with the following colors: red, blue, yellow, white, black

Paintbrushes: medium & small

Water containers

Artificial flowers (pre-distribute one per every two students)

**Visuals:**

*Red Canna*, Georgia O'Keefe

Sample artwork

**Teaching the Lesson: (1 hour, total)**

Give your aides a brief summary of the lesson

Introduce yourself and your aides

Artists show a close-up flower detail. Georgia O'Keefe is one of the most important American artists who lived and worked in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Very few women engaged in such careers at this time and she is best known for her flower studies. Show *Red Canna*, by Georgia O'Keefe: She used shapes and colors to guide your eye through her paintings. Show sample artwork.

1. Plan and Draw (20 min)

- Study flower: Select one area of detail to draw (petal, leaf, stem, interior, etc.) Your drawing may look abstract, since it is focusing on a magnified part of a flower (not a full representation of one).
- Choose the composition/angle (side, front, angle, vertical, horizontal, under, above, etc.)
- Choose the location for the center of interest (the center of interest does not have to be the center of the paper)

- Sketch your flower detail: Remember to fill and extend off your paper (edge to edge, top to bottom). Draw the center of interest and build your design outward from this point (keep a magnified perspective).

## 2. Paint (30 min)

- Review brush care and techniques. (When using brushes, rinse in water and then lay flat on desk; brushes left upright in water damage the bristles. ALWAYS rinse and wipe brush with paper towel between colors. When you start to paint, make sure your brush is not too wet)
- **Show color wheel.** Review primary/secondary colors, color mixing techniques (Color formulas: red + blue = purple, yellow + red = orange, etc.)
- Review mixing techniques: Start with your lightest color and add to it small amounts of the darker color until you get the color you desire (example: start with yellow and add small amounts of red until you get orange). **Tip:** Mix enough quantity of color on one spot of the blank paper plate; transfer to painting.
- Paint large shapes first (use medium brush), use a variety of colors to show how the colors change within each area/shape of the detail
- Add details (use small brush), can be painted over existing colors

## 3. Complete and Share (10 min)

- Add wash: Background can be filled in with a color wash in a contrasting color to the flower detail. A wash is paint with water added, to create a thinner consistency.
- Sign name
- Give a title
- Share

### **Clean-up: (after lesson ends, docent and aides)**

Close the lesson, clean up the classroom

Thoroughly rinse all paint out of brushes, store in containers with bristles up

Rinse and dry water containers

Return all materials to bin and caddy

Return all materials to the art closet

Ask teacher where to store artwork

Arrange time with teacher to display artwork



*Red Canna*, by Georgia O'Keefe



Color Wheel



Anna's flower study



Sample artwork