

# Georgia O'Keeffe

*"If I could paint the flower exactly as I see it no one would see what I see because I would paint it small like the flower is small. So I said to myself - I'll paint what I see - what the flower is to me but I'll paint it big and they will be surprised into taking time to look at it - I will make even busy New Yorkers take time to*



## Why study Georgia O'Keeffe?

Georgia O'Keeffe is recognised as being a pioneer of American modernism. She was highly praised for her art, which was unusual for a woman in the male dominated art world.

## Biological Information

Full Name	Georgia Totto O'Keeffe
Born	15 <sup>th</sup> November 1887 in Wisconsin, USA
Family	She was one of seven children. It was Georgia's mother who encouraged her interest in art.
Died	6 <sup>th</sup> March 1986 aged 98 years old.
Education	She studied at the Art Institute of Chicago. She has her first gallery show in 1916.
Later Life	Unfortunately, Georgia O'Keeffe began to lose her eyesight and in 1972, she painted her last unassisted painting.
Art Movement	Modernism

Georgia painted close up views of flowers. She used oil paints in vibrant, bold colours. She felt that by painting the flowers at such a close range would make the viewer see the object in a completely different way.

In 1929, O'Keeffe visited New Mexico and was amazed at the landscape; the incredible rock formations, the unusual light, the bones of the animals dried out by the sun and the Navajo culture.

## Key Vocabulary

**Modernism**- A movement in art to break with what has happened in the past and to find new ways to express feelings through art.

**Realism**- A movement in art to show how objects actually are.

**Abstract art**- To show objects just in terms of their lines, shapes and colours.

