Georgia O'Keeffe



Early Life

Georgia Totto O'Keeffe was born on 15th November 1887 in Wisconsin, USA.

She was one of seven children, and her mother encouraged Georgia's interest in art.

The landscape in Wisconsin was very important to Georgia, which became evident in her later work.

She studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and had her first gallery show in 1916.



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Flowers

Georgia began experimenting with painting close up views of flowers. She used oil paints in vibrant, bold colours.



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Yellow Calla



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Oriental Poppies

Painting the flowers at such a close range makes the viewer see the object in a completely different way.



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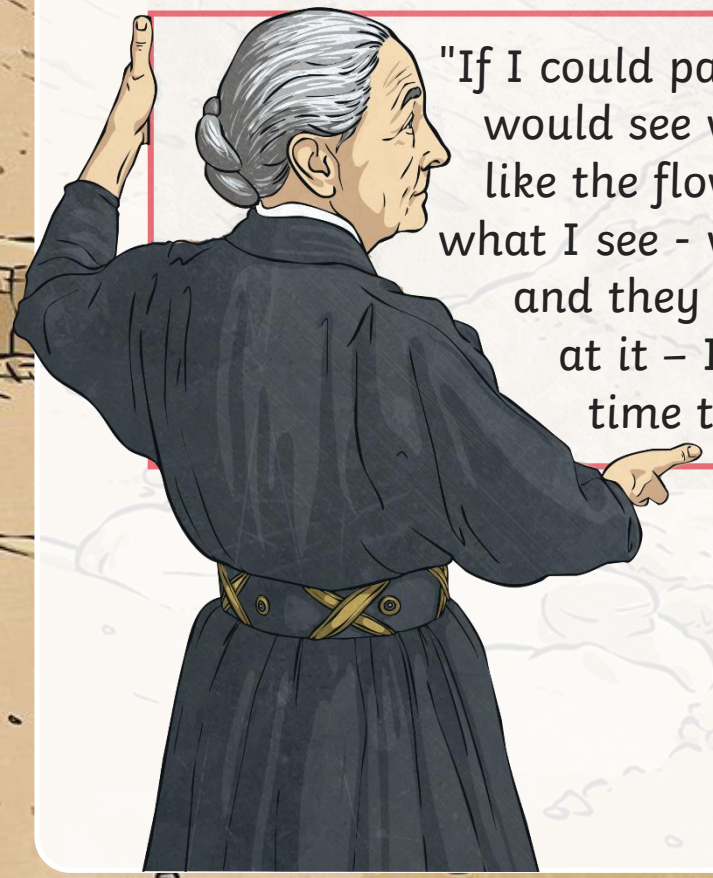
Inside Red Canna

The vibrancy of colour used, and the simplified images of leaves and petals, resulted in dramatic and innovative paintings, exploring the idea of abstraction.



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O'Keeffe's Intention



"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 see what I see of flowers."

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A Symbol of Modernity

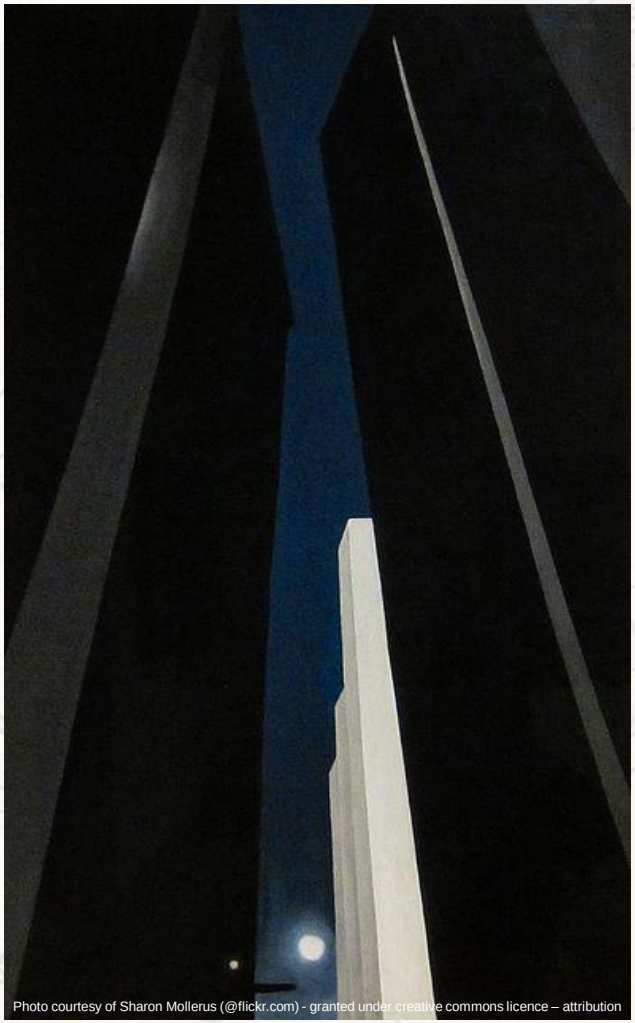


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O'Keefe began to look around during her time living in New York City, and began painting the skyscrapers.

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Later Life

Georgia O'Keeffe began to lose her eyesight and in 1972, she painted her last unassisted painting. She wrote a book and in 1977, at 90 years old, said;

"I can see what I want to paint. The thing that makes you want to create is still there."



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