



## Georgia O'Keefe & Batik

This term the children will explore the work of Georgia O'Keefe and investigate the artform of batik. They will then create their own batik samples inspired by the work of the artist.

### About the Artist - Georgia O'Keefe (1887 - 1986)

Georgia O'Keefe was born in a farmhouse near Sun Prairie, Wisconsin on November 15, 1887. She spent her youth growing up on the farm with her six brothers and sisters. Later, when Georgia was a teenager, her family moved to Williamsburg, Virginia.

Georgia's mother encouraged her artistic abilities at an early age. She took private art lessons from a local artist and found that she liked painting with watercolors. Even at the early age of twelve, she knew she wanted to become an artist.

Although Georgia had a passion for art, it wasn't easy for a woman to become an artist in the early 1900s. She was often looked down upon and not taken seriously.

Georgia's early art career was difficult. She bounced around from job to job. Sometimes she taught art, and at other times she worked as a commercial artist. At one point she became discouraged and didn't paint for four years. However, she began painting again under the influence of the artist Arthur Wesley Dow.

As Georgia explored art, she began to develop her own unique style. She began to express her emotions and feelings in her art. Going back to the basics, Georgia made several charcoal sketches that were some of her first expressions of her new style.

Some of Georgia's most famous paintings were large-scale impressions of flowers and plants. Her paintings of flowers were very colorful and often showed details of the flower while also giving the impression of femininity. The most striking feature of these paintings was the size of the flower and the vivid colors.

Georgia spent much of her later life in [New Mexico](#). The landscape provided her with inspiration and had a significant influence on her art. She painted impressions of the hills, rivers, and cliffs of New Mexico. She enjoyed painting the changing colors of the New Mexican landscape as the light changed throughout the day. Some of her most famous paintings featured the skull bone of a cow, giving her art a western feeling.

### What is Modernism?

Modernism is the name given to an art movement that took place in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Modernism rejected the traditional way of doing things. In art, painters replaced the traditions of the past with experimentation and new ways of presenting things.

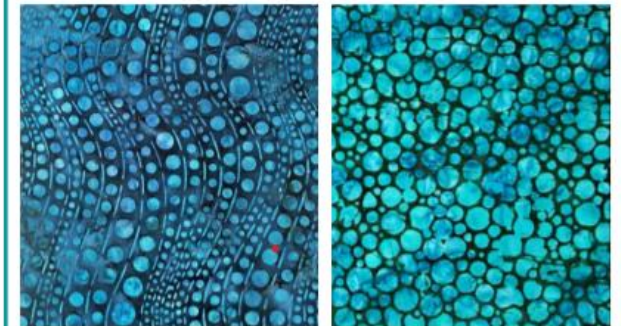
Modernism contains many different sub categories. Before Modernism classical painters were commissioned to create realistic images of famous scenes and stories 'exactly the way that they were'.

Modernism allowed artists to present their own individual views of ideas, including unique imagery and adopting light, colour, form and atmosphere to reach their own vision. O'Keefe maintained her own unique individual style. She was able to enlarge scenes from every day life, turning them into something strange and unrecognizable.

### Batik

To make a batik, selected areas of the cloth are blocked out by brushing or drawing hot wax over them, and the cloth is then dyed. The parts covered in wax resist the dye and remain the original colour. This process of waxing and dyeing can be repeated to create more elaborate and colourful designs. After the final dyeing the wax is removed and the cloth is ready for wearing or showing.

The art of decorating cloth in this way, using wax and dye, has been practised for centuries. In Java, Indonesia, batik is part of an ancient tradition, and some of the finest batik cloth in the world is still made there. The word batik originates from the Javanese 'tik' and means to dot.



Batik is a traditional art-form which involves using wax and dye to create beautiful and intricate patterns on cloth.

