Cos Cob, 1926
Georgia O’Keeffe
U.S., 1887 – 1986
Oil on canvas
Purchase, U.S. State Department Collection, 1948

Meet the artist!
Georgia O’Keeffe grew up on a farm in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. By the age of twelve, she knew she wanted to be an artist. Georgia spent several years in Chicago and New York, but she fell in love with New Mexico and eventually moved there from the big city. Some of her favorite things to paint were flowers, plants, bones, deserts, and mountains.

What’s a still life?
A “still life” is a painting or drawing of fruit, vegetables, flowers, or other ordinary objects. It’s called a still life because those things don’t move like people or animals!

What kind of plant is this?
This painting shows a skunk cabbage, a plant that makes one of the earliest appearances each spring in parts of the U.S. Its leaves can sometimes be seen sticking out through the snow, and it gives off a stinky odor to attract insects that help pollinate the plant.

How big do you think this plant would be in real life? If we could zoom out to see the whole scene, what might you find around it?

Why do you think O’Keeffe magnified her objects?

When you take a flower in your hand and really look at it, it’s your world for the moment. I want to give that world to someone else. Most people in the city rush around so, they have no time to look at a flower. I want them to see it whether they want to or not. ~ Georgia O’Keeffe

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**DO**

**Don’t ^ try this at home!**

Make an insect’s-eye view still life.

Things you will need:
- Something to draw or paint with (colored pencils, crayons, markers, pastels, watercolors, or tempera paint)
- Paper to draw or paint on
- A fruit, flower, vegetable, or other ordinary object to observe

Things to think about as you get started:
- Take a few minutes to look carefully at your object. Pick it up, turn it around, and look from all sides. What colors, textures, and shapes do you notice as you carefully examine it? What details do you want to include? It’s okay to leave some things out, too!
- Imagine you’ve shrunk down to the size of an ant or lady bug. How would the object look to you now? Draw it so big that it fills up as much of your page as possible.
- You can zoom in on one interesting section rather than showing the whole object if you’d like. Choosing an unusual angle can also be fun to try.
- A complementary (or opposite) background color can help make your main object stand out.