

Place: Inspiration for American Artists Teaching Resources



Overview: Students will explore 20th-century paintings in the MFA's Art of the Americas galleries to see how the places and communities in which artists live and work can inspire their artwork.

Curriculum: The Arts, Visual Arts

Grade Range: 1–5

Program Artworks:

- [Long Island](#), Arthur Garfield Dove, 1925 (62.1128)
- [Deer's Skull with Pedernal](#), Georgia O'Keeffe, 1936 (1990.432)
- [Tire Jumping in Front of My Window](#), Allan Rohan Crite, 1936–47 (2007.3)
- [Hot Still-Scape for 6 Colors, 7th Avenue Style](#), Stuart Davis, 1940 (1983.120)

Teaching Resources

My Name is Georgia: A Portrait

Written and Illustrated by Jeanette Winter

Go on a journey through the life of Georgia O'Keeffe with colorful illustrations and carefully chosen prose. Woven throughout are selected quotes from O'Keeffe and simple messages that give children insight into the woman behind the masterpieces.

ISBN: 978-0152045975 | 48 pages | HMH Books for Young Readers | 2003

**Recommended for grades 1-3*

MFA/Boston

What the Artist Saw: Georgia O'Keeffe

Written by Gabrielle Balkan; Illustrated by Josy Bloggs

Meet Georgia O'Keeffe in this illustrated book created in collaboration with the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Learn what led her to look closely at nature and make paintings of flowers and bones. Includes timeline of artworks, activities, & glossary. ISBN: 9780744033670 | 56 pages | Penguin Random House – DK Children | 2021
*Recommended for grades 3-5

Frenesi

Watch the New Artie Shaw Orchestra in a 2011 performance of *Frenesi*. A hit version of this jazz standard was recorded by Artie Shaw and His Orchestra and reached number one on the charts in 1940—the same year Stuart Davis painted *Hot Still-Scape for Six Colors — 7th Avenue Style*. (3:04 video)

Key Concepts and Vocabulary

Abstract Art: art style that does not attempt to represent an accurate depiction of reality but instead use shapes, lines, and colors to represent real things

Representational Art: art that is meant to appear as real objects; art that shows the world in recognizable images

Classroom Activity

Think about your place – the physical environment and community. How might it inspire your artwork?

1. As a group, look out your classroom window and then discuss these questions:
 - a. What do you see out the window?
 - b. What sounds are coming from outside?
 - c. Are there people outside the window?
 - d. Are you looking at an urban, suburban, or rural setting?
 - e. Create a list of adjectives that describes what you see.
2. Prompt students to think about what kind of artwork they would make with inspiration from their “place”.
 - a. Would you create a painting, sculpture, collage, or something else?
 - b. Would your artwork be realistic, abstract, or a little of both?
 - c. What music would you play while you are creating your artwork?
 - d. What colors would you use to represent your surroundings and community?
3. Create a work of art inspired by your “place” using the medium that you chose.