

Meet the Masters
November Program

Grade 2

Shape in Art - Organic/Geometric

Wayne Thiebaud "Cake Window"

Georgia O'Keefe "White Trumpet Flower"

Topics for Discussion:

1. Georgia O'Keefe uses organic shapes in "White Trumpet Flower". Can you find these organic shapes?
2. "Cake Window" is composed of geometric shapes. Can you find these shapes?
3. What is the difference between organic and geometric shapes?
4. Which painting is warm (red, yellow, and orange) and which is cool (blue, green, and purple)?
5. Could you compose a picture using only geometric or organic shapes? Which shapes would you choose? Why?
6. Geometric shapes and organic appear in nature and in the man made world. Can you point out different shapes in your classroom?

Hands-on Art Activity: Pop - up Shapes

Materials: 9"x 12" multi colored construction paper
Construction paper scraps
Crayons
Glue

Directions:

1. Shapes are best-done free hand and geometric shapes work well when using a tracer or stencil.
2. Cut out shapes, you can decorate these with crayon.
3. Shapes can be glued onto colored construction paper to form 3-d configurations and colorful combinations.
4. To make the shapes "pop-up" cut small strips of paper, roll and glue onto background.
5. Glue the shapes onto the rolled paper.
6. Paper strips can also be folded like a fan and glued onto the background with the shape glued onto the front of the strip.
7. Make sure the student's name appears on front of the "pop-up".
8. Clean -up.

Shape in Art - Organic and Geometric 1 hour

Georgia O'Keeffe "White Trumpet Flower"
Wayne Thiebaud "Pie Counter"

Artwork Overview

Focusing on the Artwork

Additional Topics for Discussion

Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986), painted "White Trumpet Flower". A magnified flower fills the entire canvas. The painting of the flower is clear and precise with few details. The artist was using organic, flowing shapes in this composition. "White Trumpet Flower" is an example of O'Keeffe's powerful dramatic style.

O'Keeffe's originality and integrity have earned her a reputation as one of the greatest American artists in the twentieth century. She always painted what was important to her. She used her artist's eye to find new ways to see the things around her. She is very famous for her clean, simplified, organic paintings and drawings.

Natural subjects were what she painted most. She not only painted flowers, but animal bones, sea shells, rocks and desert landscapes. All of her paintings contain a peaceful balance of elements, reflecting her love of the subject and highly developed sense of composition. Although her goal was to reveal the form of her subjects, her paintings often have a strong emotional impact.

By the time her work was first shown in New York in 1916, when she was twenty-eight, O'Keeffe had been painting for many years. Even as a child, the forms of nature had fascinated her, and she had begun drawing at a very young age. By the time she was thirteen years old she knew she wanted to be an artist. She studied at the Art Institute of Chicago, with the New York Art Student's League, and at the University of Virginia.

O'Keeffe lived in New York, Texas and eventually settled in New Mexico where she spent the rest of her life painting desert scenes. She continued to paint until the end of her life. Always working in her own personal style, Georgia O'Keeffe was an independent, highly original, and thoroughly American artist.



Georgia O'Keeffe, *White Trumpet Flower*, 1932, Oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches. San Diego Museum of Art Collection, Gift of Inez Grant Parker in memory of Earle W. Grant. With permission from Georgia O'Keeffe.

Shape in Art - Organic and Geometric

Wayne Thiebaud (TEE boh) was described as the "hungriest artist in California" when he first exhibited his lavish paintings of common

American foods. His pictures of pies, cakes, hamburgers, ice cream cones, and candy earned the art critic's label "poet laureate of the coffee break."

We see rows and rows of rich desserts sitting on top of a strongly lit counter. Each triangular piece has been cut from a round pie or cake and sits on round plates. Each wedge casts a shadow. The different types of desserts sit at slightly different angles. Thiebaud is somehow able to mimic with his paints the appearance of fluffy sugary confections. When he painted rows of desserts and pastries, he planned each one to be quite different from the next, like visual notes of music.

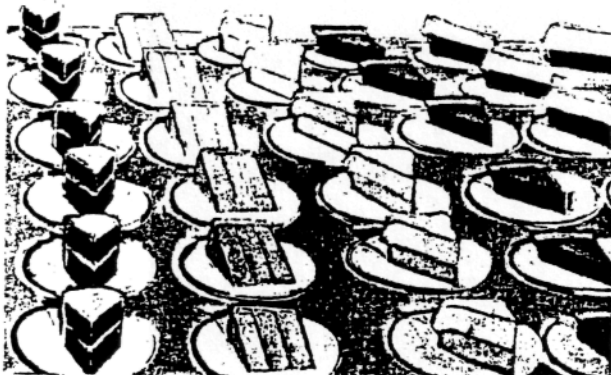
Although Thiebaud painted many landscapes and portraits, he is most often linked with Pop Art, because many of his images are of popular or common objects. As early as 1953, before the Pop Art movement began he painted gumball and jackpot machines, as well as food counters. He painted his pie paintings from memory. It was probably his experience of working for years as drug store commercial artist that made this possible.

Thiebaud carefully study the paintings of other artists, such as Vincent van Gogh. He noticed how van Gogh used a different colored outlines around forms to heighten the objects's color. Notice the colored outlines around Thiebaud's pies and cakes.

When Thiebaud chose America's popular foods as a theme for his work, he was focusing on mass culture and consumerism. He painted these foods in repeated arrangements that showed off their excessive richness.

Thiebaud was born in Arizona in 1920. Early in his career, he worked as an animator or Walt Disney. He painted the background figures behind the main figures. He also worked as a sign painter, designer, advertising art director, and illustrator. During World War II, he served in the Army as an illustrator.

When he was twenty-eight he went back to college and later graduated from California State University, with a Bachelors and Masters of Arts degree. Thiebaud currently lives in Sacramento, California and teaches art at the University of California at Davis.



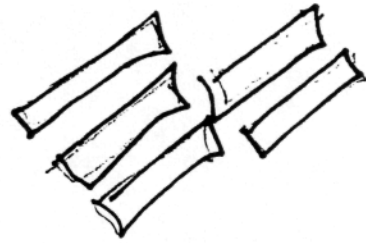
Wayne Thiebaud, *Pie Counter*. 1963. Oil, 30 x 36 inches.
Collection of The Whitney Museum of American Art, Larry
Aldrich Foundation Fund, Acq. #64.11

Pop-up Shapes

1. Cut out shapes and decorate.



2. Cut paper strips one for each shape.

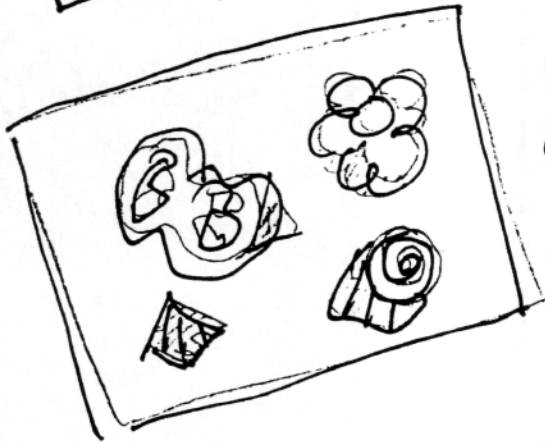


3.



Glue strips onto background.

4.



Glue shapes onto strips.