

## Insects to Abstraction – Georgia Okeefe

### Materials:

- 4x4 viewfinders (can be made from black construction paper)
  - 12x12 piece of black construction or pastel paper
  - oil pastels
  - pencils
  - pencil crayons
  - blending tools
1. Start with a close up drawing or photo of an insect. You can take your own or find these easily on the internet. Look closely at the imagery and use a viewfinder to explore possibilities for composition. Decide if you want an extreme closeup (small viewfinder) or broader view (larger viewfinder). We used a 4x4 viewfinder.
  2. Move the viewfinder around on your insect photo until you've found a composition that you are happy with. You might take into consideration image development strategies such as contrast, symmetry, repetition of pattern & form, colour theory etc. Once you've selected your composition, secure the viewfinder to the image at the corners with scotch tape.
  3. Next, on top of the printed photo, still with viewfinder attached, trace the lines that you feel are most important with a sharpie fine liner. If the photo is very dark you can use a white jelly roll marker (both are readily available at any art supply store).
  4. Now, on each side of the outside of the viewfinder, with a white pen or pencil crayon, mark off inches on each side with four one inch measurements. When this is done connect all the marks by drawing a grid on top of the photo of the butterfly. This can be done with a black or white pen, depending on which is easier to see.
  5. Mark out same grid on large piece of black paper. with pencil, white pencil crayon, china marker or any other visible writing tool
  6. Draw the lines in each square of the grid into those on the larger black paper. Don't stress if they're not exactly the same, they won't be. Just concentrate as best as you can and let your hand follow your eye as it moves along each line in your composition.

7. Next choose an analogous composition from the colour wheel. Analogous colours are those that are within 3-4 stops on the colour wheel.
8. Select your colours from the Oil Pastel box and begin colouring in areas or sections of your drawn lines . You might decide to use a wider selection of light and dark tones of your analogous colour range so that it will be easier to create a tonal range and more contrast to make the areas “pop” out.
9. Once you have laid down a solid foundation of oil pastel you can begin adding other analogous colours on top, layering them using patterns of dense little marks (see pointillism or stippling technique)to create more depth and more of engaging areas of colour and form.
10. As a final stage, give the kids the option of using rolled up piece of paper or blending tool to blend colours together and create subtle transitions between sections of colour and light areas and dark ones.