Georgia O’Keeffe, Ansel Adams
Honoring Nature With Art

Georgia O’Keeffe and Ansel Adams were two artists who became famous during the early and middle 1900s. They shared a friendship, a love of nature, and the love of the Southwest United States. They were both very different.

Georgia was a painter who worked with deep, rich colors. Ansel was a photographer who worked in black and white.

Their friendship and work are the focus of an exhibit at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. The Mini Page spies a crafter at the museum to learn more about these amazing artists.

A crafter is in charge of creating something that is on exhibit, such as the art, that children can color in a too.

Georgia and Ansel
Georgia and Ansel met in 1929 and were friends for 50 years. Georgia was more comfortable in nature than in a group of people, while Ansel would paint on exhibit, only to be surrounded by people. He wanted everybody to work with children.

The exhibit "Georgia O'Keeffe and Ansel Adams: Partners in the American Southwest" is on display at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. After Jan. 4, the exhibit moves to West Palm Beach, the Smithsonian American Art Museum. After 25-52 (08) release dates: December 27-January 2 52-1 (08)

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Meet Sofie, Teala and Danica
Sofie: "I love my grandma. She was a great artist who helped Ansel become known as a great artist. She was an artist who happened to be a woman. She fought to change that."

Teala: "I love my grandpa. Ansel fought to change that."

Danica: "I grew up in San Francisco. Ansel lived there, too. My mom was a photographer."

Gus Godspeed's expert

Color
Georgia O’Keeffe painted with rich, bright colors. She believed color showed emotion and mood. She chose reds, oranges and yellows for an exciting emotion and mood. She chose reds, blues and grays. The photo is in black and white. Can you see other differences? Can you see things that are artful?

Abstract art
When art is abstract, it might show ideas instead of something real. Abstract art usually shows a realistic image of the thing itself. One way artists make abstract art is to take a complicated form and simplify it. They use details to show a subject’s true nature.

Painting and photography
Photographers have to begin with mountains. Painters might paint what they see in the real world, or they might paint what is in their minds. Photographers have to begin with what they can see in real life. Part of the art is in seeing an angle or view that others might not see. Painting and photography are also used to let others see a view that others might not see. Painters might paint what they see in the real world, or they might paint what is in their minds. Photographers have to begin with what they can see in real life.

Capturing light
Georgia O’Keeffe loved the light in the American Southwest. In the desert, the light is sometimes clearer and sharper. Natural forms stand out. Artists spend a lot of effort looking for a place they love to work with.

Some artists focus on the ocean. Others love mountains, prairies or desert. Because the light is different in each place, what the artists see and create in each area will be different too!

Artistic Color and Style

Follow their hearts
Georgia O’Keeffe and Ansel Adams were both stubborn, in a good way. They believed they should follow what they felt deep in their own hearts. They did not believe they had to do what everyone else was doing. They did what they felt was the right thing to do.

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Part of the art is in seeing an angle or view that others might not see. Part of painting is in creating a composition. Part of photography is also in how the picture is designed, composed, or printed, either in the darkness or digitally.

Georgia O’Keeffe painting "Black Mesa Landscape, New Mexico/Out Back of Marie’s II," 24 1/4 x 36 1/4 inches, CR 730 Georgia O’Keeffe Museum, gift of The Burnett FoundationFormerly known as "out back of Marie’s," the building in the photo is the house where Georgia O’Keeffe grew up. The exhibit "Georgia O'Keeffe and Ansel Adams: Partners in the American Southwest" is on display at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. After Jan. 4, the exhibit moves to West Palm Beach, the Smithsonian American Art Museum. After 25-52 (08) release dates: December 27-January 2 52-1 (08)

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