"Oil Pastel Nature Drawings"

**Objective:** Create an abstract, blended-value oil pastel nature drawing.

**Materials**
- Black construction paper
- White school glue
- Oil pastels
- Various items from nature
- Optional: metallic of fluorescent oil pastels

**Motivation**
- Discuss nature as subject matter in art.
- You could introduce the lesson by comparing/contrasting Georgia O’Keeffe’s large-scale artwork to contemporary work such as Martin Klimas’ [flower explosion photographs](#).

**Step 1: Draw Image**
Students should begin by drawing an image from nature from observation. In addition to flowers, pine cones, shells, animal skulls, etc... make great options. Suggest cropping and zooming in on the image for varied composition.

**Step 2: Outline with Glue**
Students can then trace over their drawing pencil lines with white glue. Small details should be ignored as the glue will run together. The glue outline creates a beautiful organic line quality after it is dry.

**Step 3: Fill with Oil Pastels**
Once the glue is dry, have students begin to fill in the white space with oil pastel. Suggest blending techniques like overlapping of similar hues, as well as more complex methods such as non-directional blending (colorless blenders and baby oil work wonders as well).

To finish, wipe off any pastel from the glue lines.

**Tip:** Using a viewfinder can help students practice cropping images.

**Tip:** The white school glue outline does take 24+ hours to dry, so plan accordingly.