



Marjorie Content was an American photographer who was modest and kept her work largely to herself. She rarely published and never exhibited. Among her close friends were several famous artists, including the photographer Alfred Stieglitz, the painter Georgia O'Keeffe, the playwright Maxwell Anderson, and the novelist Kay Boyle. Although she never referred to herself as an artist, she worked steadily as an art photographer for fifteen years.

She traveled to the Southwest often, sometimes as a photographer for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and to visit her close friend and painter Georgia O'Keeffe. Like her painter friend, Content settled in New Mexico later in life.

Marjorie Content, *Cactus*, 1934. Silver Print, 6 7/16 in. x 4 3/8 in., The Vallarino Photography Collection and Purchase Fund.

Activity: Cactus Silhouette Collage

Materials:

- Glue or tape
- scissors
- black paper
- colorful construction paper: one piece for the background along with several different colors to tear

Directions:

- Tear strips of colorful paper for a background sunset sky.
- Using your glue or tape, attach strips of paper horizontally to your background paper. I like to start at the top and work my way down.
- Continue tearing and attaching colorful paper strips until your background paper is filled.
- Use your scissors to cut out a simple cactus shape, such as the one in *Cactus* (see above).
- Attach the cactus to the background paper with glue.

Tips:

- Think about the colors you see in the sky at sunset and let that be your inspiration for the colors you choose.

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- If you don't have black or colorful construction paper, you can add the color to white paper using crayons or markers, or you can tear colorful pieces of paper out of magazines.



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