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Indianapolis Museum of Art to Present the Works of Georgia O'Keeffe and her Contemporaries

Georgia O'Keeffe and the Southwestern Still Life opens Nov. 2, 2014

INDIANAPOLIS, June 25, 2014—An exhibition featuring the works of Georgia O'Keeffe and her contemporaries will open in the Allen Whitehill Clowes Special Exhibition Gallery at the Indianapolis Museum of Art on Nov. 2, 2014. *Georgia O'Keeffe and the Southwestern Still Life* tells the story of the Southwest as seen through the eyes of the artists who lived there. The exhibition is produced by International Arts®. Focusing on still lifes, representations of an object or groups of objects, the exhibition will feature more than 50 works that provide fascinating examples of art's capacity to capture the essence of "a particular place."

"The IMA is pleased to present this exciting exhibition to our members and the public. *Georgia O'Keeffe and the Southwestern Still Life* highlights the power of O'Keeffe's works, within the context of other great American painters who worked in the Southwest at the same time as O'Keeffe," stated Dr. Charles L. Venable, The Melvin & Bren Simon Director and CEO of the Indianapolis Museum of Art. "The dynamic works in this exhibition present how early 20th century artists working in the Southwest, particularly New Mexico, had the remarkable ability to capture the energy of a place and time in paint."

The stark beauty, unusual architecture and unique light of the American Southwest have inspired artists for generations. In 1917, O'Keeffe traveled through New Mexico in search of new inspiration and, in 1949, captivated by the landscape and culture, she settled there permanently. *Georgia O'Keeffe and the Southwestern Still Life* brings to light how O'Keeffe found inspiration in some of the simplest of subjects, and reveals how her depictions of these objects were anything but mundane. Her enlarged views of flowers, trees, shells, rocks, and crosses are emblematic of her embrace of the genre. The sun-bleached bones she gathered in the New Mexico desert became subjects of some of the most famous depictions of the region. O'Keeffe's iconic works fueled the imaginations of artists for decades to follow and inspired a vibrant artistic scene that began in the early 20th century and still thrives today. Including additional still life works by artists such as Marsden Hartley, Raymond Jonson and Victor Higgins, this exhibition will present the paintings of O'Keeffe's contemporaries in the context of their shared passion for the region and the genre.

"This exhibition provides visitors with the opportunity to explore Georgia O'Keeffe's life, career, and fascination with the American Southwest through some of her most iconic work as well as many of her lesser-known, but none-the-less significant paintings," said Harriet Warkel, the IMA's guest curator of American Art. "O'Keeffe inspired thousands of artists to travel west during the 20th century and the phenomenon spurred a fascination with the culture and landscape that is evident in the still-life paintings examined in this exhibition. The exhibition will enable visitors to further their knowledge of many of those artists as well as gain insight into the unique culture of the region itself – all through the artifacts that were captured in paintings."

Georgia O'Keeffe and the Southwestern Still Life is organized by Joseph S. Czeszochowski and produced by International Arts®. The organizing curator is American Art scholar Dr. Charles C. Eldredge, former Director of the Smithsonian American Art Museum and currently Hall Distinguished Professor of American

Art at the University of Kansas. A 160-page book by Dr. Eldredge will be published by International Arts® to accompany the exhibition.

Dr. Eldredge explained, “This exhibition brings much needed attention to the painted interpretations of the American Southwest by O’Keeffe and her contemporaries. It explores the ways these artists took simple, seemingly mute objects and with them conveyed natural and human dramas that described a distinctive locale and its rich cultural history.”

The IMA exhibition is presented by The Alliance of the IMA, with additional support provided by Barnes & Thornburg LLP and the Christel DeHaan Family Foundation.

About the Indianapolis Museum of Art

Founded in 1883, the Indianapolis Museum of Art serves the creative interests of its communities by fostering exploration of arts, design and the natural environment. Encompassing 152 acres of gardens and grounds, the IMA is among the 10 oldest and 10 largest encyclopedic art museums in the United States and features significant collections of African, American, Asian, European, contemporary art and design arts that spans 5,000 years of history. Additionally, art, design, and nature are featured at The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park: 100 Acres, Oldfields–Lilly House and Gardens, a historic Country-Place-Era estate and National Historic Landmark on the IMA grounds and the Miller House and Garden in Columbus, Indiana, one of the country’s most highly regarded examples of mid-century Modernist residences. For more information visit www.imamuseum.org.

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