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Alyson Oüten Idaho's NewsChannel 7

06:44 PM MDT on Thursday, June 30, 2005

BOISE -- This is a first for Treasure Valley art lovers.

Never before have so many O'Keeffe paintings been on display - an exhibition that spans five decades of her highly acclaimed career.

The exhibit titled "Georgia O'Keeffe: visions of the sublime" is coming to Boise.

Flowers, trees, southwest landscapes - they are quintessential Georgia O'Keeffe and they are now open for viewing at the Boise Art Museum.

Paul Boehlke-KTVB

The works of Georgia O'Keeffe will be on display at the Boise Art Museum until Sept. 19.

"This is a major achievement from the museum; it's a first for Idaho..."

Executive Director Tim Close says it's the first time so many works by O'Keeffe have made their way to the gem state, 33 in all, spanning 50 years of O'Keeffe's illustrious career.

"This exhibition is unique and it offers a slice of O'Keeffe's five decades looking at O'Keeffe's artistic career dating back to some her earliest works," said Close.

This American artist says she knew by age 12 she wanted to be a painter, but not by traditional standards of the time. While most 19th century artists were painting realistic landscapes, O'Keeffe saw the scenery in a much different light.

"Her style is unique in itself, you can't say its realism or abstraction or close-

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ups it's a variety of styles that is her vision of O'Keeffe is that you can't put her in a stylistic box. She is a unique American artistic voice," said Close.

O'Keeffe lived to the age of 98 and produced some of America's most recognizable art, focusing much of her attention on the Southwest.

"She's known for close-ups of flowers and dreamscapes," said Close.

The museum raised more than \$200,000 to bring this traveling exhibition to town. Boise is the fifth and final stop on its tour.

Organizers hope O'Keeffe's popularity will bring in some 30,000 visitors over the 11 week exhibition.

O'Keeffe's art exhibition runs through September 19th at the Boise Art Museum.

Tickets are \$8 for adults.

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