

FRESNO METROPOLITAN MUSEUM  
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georgia  
O'KEEFFE

*visions of the sublime*

Oct. 22, 2004 - Jan. 2, 2005

*"The unexplainable thing in nature that makes me feel the world is big far beyond my understanding - to understand maybe by trying to put it in to form. To find the feeling of infinity on the horizon line or just over the next hill." - Georgia O'Keeffe*



The Fresno Metropolitan Museum is proud to be the only west coast venue to present *Georgia O'Keeffe: Visions of the Sublime* from October 22, 2004 - January 2, 2005.



The exhibition will feature over thirty paintings and a number of drawings spanning the entire career of celebrated American icon Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986). O'Keeffe spent a major portion of her artistic output painting in her natural surroundings and sought to capture a sense of the sublime infinite space that she found so appealing in the deserts of New Mexico and the plains of west Texas. In addition, a selection of photographs by Alfred



Stieglitz and Todd Webb complement her work and will provide a candid glimpse into the life of O'Keeffe.

From her earliest works, O'Keeffe was a visionary who intuitively created new definitions of the sublime, enhanced the perception of its visual symbols, and inevitably provided her audience with new ways to view their surroundings. In the early 1930s, O'Keeffe wrote about "*that memory or dream thing I do for me comes nearer reality than my objective kind of work.*" This comment connects O'Keeffe to the aesthetic concept of the sublime, with its immediate sensation of awe-inspiring, infinite space, and evocative color and light directly internalized in our own lives.

*Georgia O'Keeffe: Visions of the Sublime* includes a selection of photographs by O'Keeffe's husband Alfred Stieglitz (1864-1946). The two married in 1924 thus beginning an emotionally and artistically rich relationship that connected the couple for over twenty years. They directly influenced each other's work and continuously exchanged ideas about art. Both, for example, explored organic and abstract forms found in nature, as for example in O'Keeffe's paintings *From the Lake, No. 3* (1924) and *From the River, Light Blue* (1964). Similarly Stieglitz captures the abstract forms of the sky and clouds in his photographs, such as in his *Equivalent* series of the 1920s.

In addition, a selection of black and white photographs by Todd Webb (1905-2000) will reveal a personal and candid look at the artist. Webb was introduced to O'Keeffe through Stieglitz and remained in contact with her during his travels out West. Todd and his wife developed a close friendship with O'Keeffe, and they eventually joined O'Keeffe in moving to New Mexico. Webb's



photographs from the 1950s and 60s chronicle the life of O'Keeffe in the places she lived and cherished - Abiquiu, Glen Canyon, and Ghost Ranch.



*Visions of the Sublime* includes works of art loaned by such prestigious North American institutions as the Georgia O'Keeffe Foundation, Abiquiu; Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio; Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, Michigan; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC; Honolulu Academy of Arts, Honolulu, Hawaii; The Menil Collection, Houston Texas; Museum of New Mexico, Museum of Fine Arts, Santa Fe; Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia Pennsylvania; Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, Arizona and many others.

Note: This exhibition was recently profiled in the August 23rd issue of Newsweek - a link to the article appears here: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/5707736/site/newsweek/>

*Georgia O'Keeffe: Visions of the Sublime* is organized and circulated by Joseph S. Czestochowski, International Arts, Memphis, Tennessee. The exhibition was made possible by the assistance of The Georgia O'Keeffe Foundation, Abiquiu, New Mexico; George Eastman House, Rochester (Alfred Stieglitz Collection); and the Museum of New Mexico, Museum of Fine Arts, Santa Fe, New Mexico (Georgia O'Keeffe Collection). All O'Keeffe images are provided courtesy of International Arts, Memphis, TN.

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IMAGE CREDITS from Top to Bottom:

Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986),

*Waterfall-No. III-Iao Valley*, 1939

Oil on canvas, 24 x 20 in.

Honolulu Academy of Arts, Honolulu.

Gift of Susan Crawford Tracy, 1996.

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Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986),

*Gerald's Tree II*, 1937

Oil on canvas, 40 x 30 in.

Stark Museum of Art, Orange, Texas. 1987.1.1

Alfred Stieglitz (1864-1946),

*Georgia O'Keeffe*, 1923,

Gelatin silver print, 11.7 x 9.1cm.

Collection George Eastman House, Rochester,

New York, Part purchase and part gift

of An American Place,

Ex-collection Georgia O'Keeffe (74:0052:0047)

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