



# Bell Ringer 2/5/15

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- Who is Georgia O'Keeffe?



# Bell Ringer 2/6/15

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- What are some characteristics of Georgia O'Keeffe's work?

# Characteristics of O'Keeffe's Art



- Magnification of an image
  - Many works (flowers and landscapes) are zoomed in to create a feeling of emotional closeness to the object.
- After moving to New Mexico, focused on the desert scenery
  - For example, animal bones on the barren desert.
- Known for her works of natural objects such as flowers, clouds, & animal skulls & bones
- NEVER painted people or any living creatures.



# Bell Ringer 2/9/15

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- What is the key characteristic of Watercolor as a medium and as a finished artwork?
- Transparency (See through)
- Intensity & Value controlled by amount of water.



# Bell Ringer 2/10/15

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■ What is the difference between Formalism & Imitationalism?

- Formalism – Focuses on the Elements & Principles of Art
- Imitationalism – Imitates real life. (aka Realism)



# Bell Ringer 2/11/15

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- Besides Formalism and Imitationalism, what is another artistic approach?
- Emotionalism – made solely to express an emotion, mood or feeling – may also be realistic or abstract in appearance.

# Georgia O'Keefe



(1887-1986)  
American Painter



# O'Keefe's Life

- Born 1887, on a large dairy farm in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin.
- She was the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 7 children.



Stieglitz's photograph





# Early Artist

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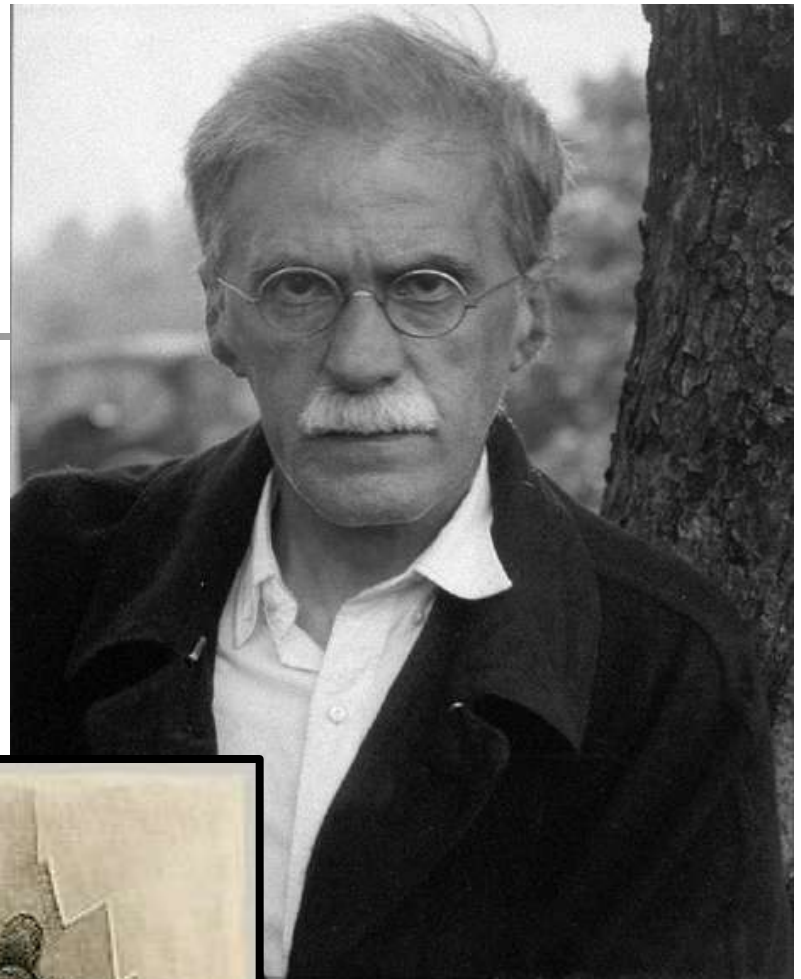
- Studied at the Art Institute of Chicago & the Art Student's League in New York City.
- Her early works were abstract in nature.
- She went on to be a grade school teacher in Texas and later a college art professor.





# Alfred Stieglitz

- In early 1916, a famous photographer by the name of Alfred Stieglitz took interest in O'Keeffe's work. He put up 10 of her drawings in his gallery with out her knowledge. (She wasn't too happy.)



Georgia O'Keeffe,  
*No. 13 Special*,  
1916/1917,  
Charcoal on paper

# Alfred Stieglitz

- He encouraged O'Keeffe to return to New York – more because he was “in love” with her.

FYI – He was 23 years older than her.



# Alfred Stieglitz

- He was married when they met and waited for the divorce to be finalized before they got married.

***SCANDALOUS!***





# Flowers

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**IN 1924, SHE MADE HER FIRST LARGE-SCALE FLOWER PAINTING, *Petunia No. 2*.**

**IN 1928, SIX OF HER PAINTINGS OF CALLA LILIES SOLD FOR \$25,000, THE LARGEST SUM EVER PAID FOR A GROUP OF PAINTINGS BY A LIVING AMERICAN ARTIST.**



**TWO CALLA LILIES ON PINK  
(1928)**



## Iris or not...

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- § O'Keeffe began working more representationally in the 1920s in an effort to move her critics away from Freudian interpretations...
- § Her earlier work had been mostly abstract, but works such as *Black Iris III* (1926) evoke a veiled representation of female genitalia while also accurately depicting the center of an iris.



**BLACK IRIS III (1926)**



# Feminism?

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- O'Keeffe consistently denied the Freudian interpretations of her art, but many prominent feminist artists assessed her work similarly—in essential terms—such as Judy Chicago, who gave O'Keeffe a prominent place in her *The Dinner Party*.





# Feminism?

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- Although 1970s feminists celebrated O'Keeffe as the originator of "female iconography", O'Keeffe rejected their celebration of her work and refused to cooperate with any of their projects.
- She said "They're JUST FLOWERS!"



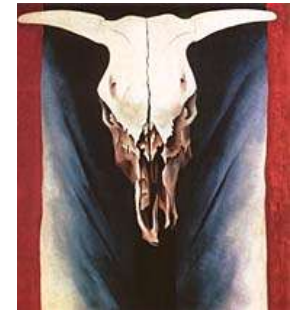
# New Mexico



- In May of 1929, O'Keeffe would set out by train to Taos, New Mexico – a trip that would forever change her life. *She fell in love.*



# Second Summer

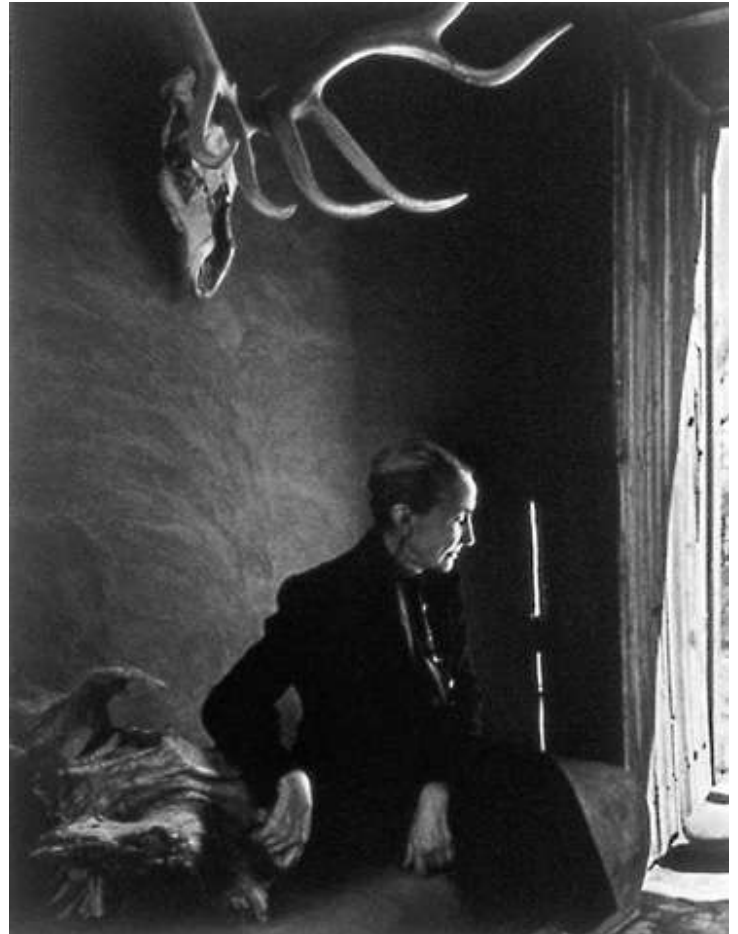


- During O'Keeffe's second summer in New Mexico, she began collecting animal bones that she would find while on a walk in the desert. She began to study and paint them.



# New Home – Old Memories

- In 1940, O'Keeffe bought a ranch in New Mexico called Ghost Ranch.



# Ghost Ranch

- Ghost Ranch inspired many of O'Keeffe's paintings. She bought a Ford Model A and learned to drive so that she could go exploring the canyons and deserts.

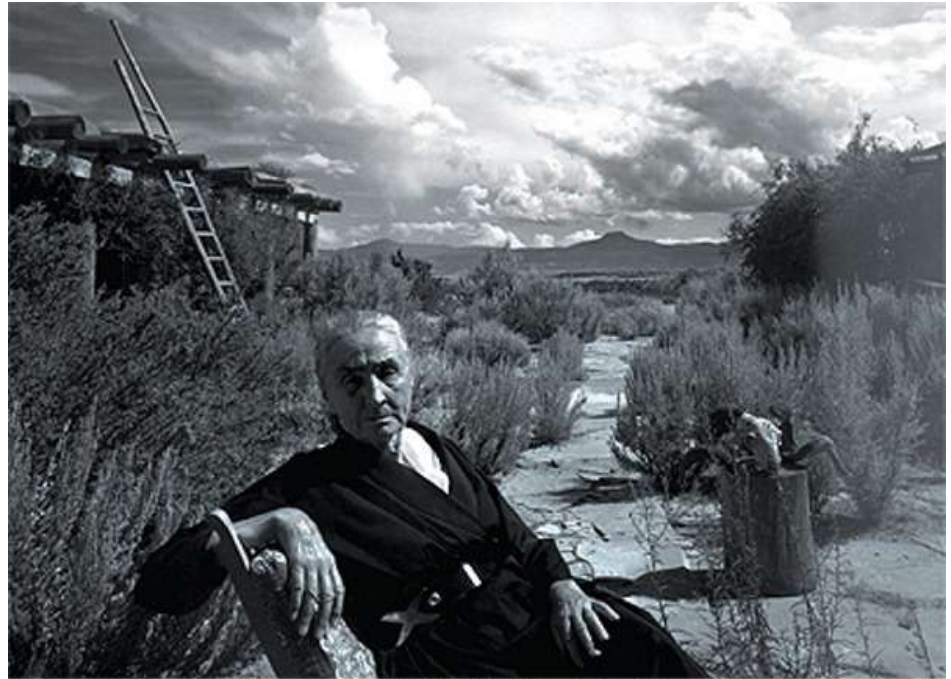


# *Summer Days* (1936)



# Stieglitz Passes

- **WHILE O'KEEFFE WAS IN NEW MEXICO IN JULY OF 1946, STIEGLITZ SUFFERED A STROKE. SHE WENT BACK TO NEW YORK TO BE WITH HIM WHEN HE DIED ON JULY 13, 1946.**
- **SHE MOVED TO GHOST RANCH**



Arnold Newman, *Georgia O'Keeffe sitting at Ghost Ranch*, 1968.

## End of an era...

- In 1971, O'Keeffe became aware of her failing eyesight – an irreversible eye degeneration disease.
- She stopped painting in 1972.



# A New Type of Artist

- However, she had a large kiln installed at the ranch and began creating pots and pottery.





# Legacy

- O’Keeffe died in 1986 at the age of 98 in Santa Fe, New Mexico.



*“ When I think of death, I only regret that I will not be able to see this beautiful country anymore... unless the Indians are right and my spirit will walk her after I am gone”*

*– Georgia O’Keeffe.*

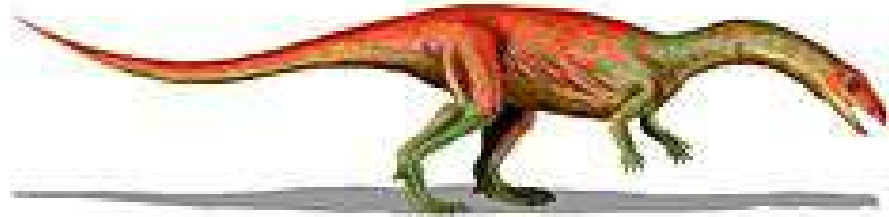
# Legacy

- 1977 – President Ford presented O’Keeffe with the Medal of Freedom, the highest honor awarded to an American citizen.
- 1985 – National Medal of Arts.
- Considered the “Mother of American Modernism”



# Legacy

- 2006 – A dinosaur fossil was named after O’Keeffe. Named *Effigia Okeeffeae*.
- Her studio and home in Abiquiu is now a Historical National Landmark owned and operated by the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum.





# O'Keeffe Museum

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*Life Artwork of Georgia O'Keeffe*

<http://www.c-span.org/video/?310650-1/life-artwork-georgia-okeeffe>

11 mins.

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# Vocabulary Definitions

- **Realism:** Representing pieces in artwork in a true-to-life manner, using lifelike colors, textures, shadows, & proportions
- **Positive Space:** The main shapes or spaces in artwork - the space that is filled with something
- **Negative Space:** The space surrounding shapes in artwork – empty space

