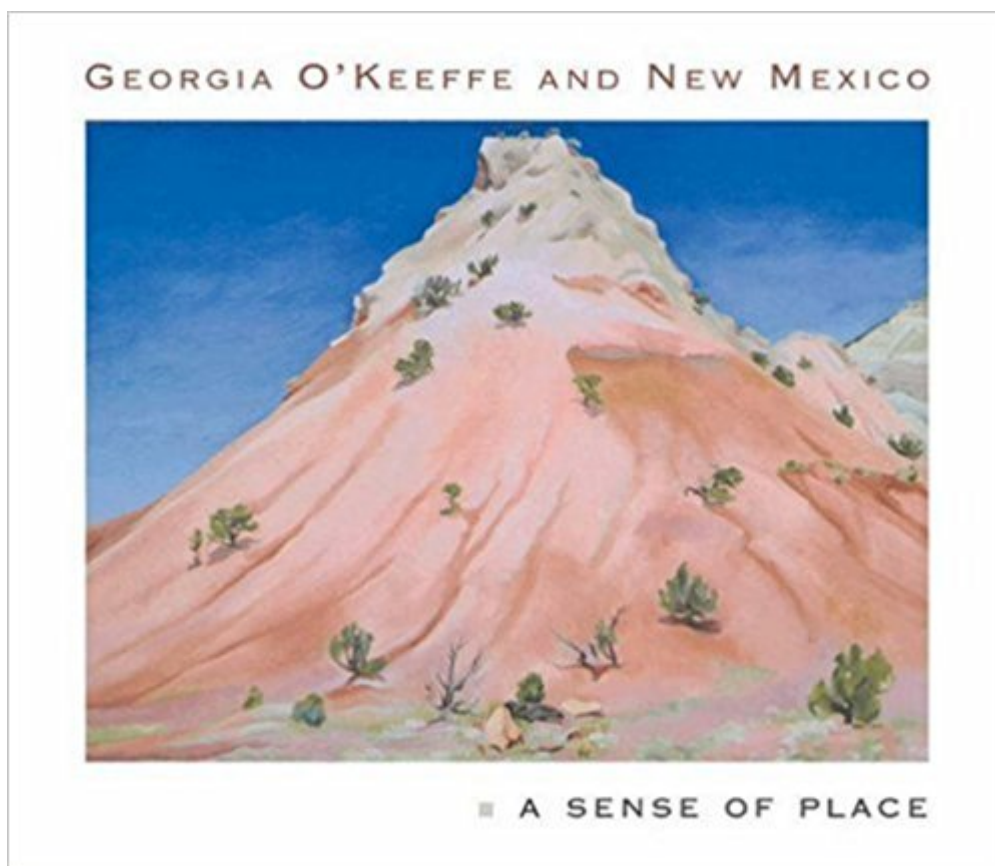


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# Georgia O'Keeffe And New Mexico: A Sense Of Place



## Synopsis

When Georgia O'Keeffe first visited New Mexico in 1917, she was instantly drawn to the stark beauty of its unusual architectural and landscape forms. In 1929, she began spending part of almost every year painting there, first in Taos, and subsequently in and around Alcalde, Abiquiu, and Ghost Ranch, with occasional excursions to remote sites she found particularly compelling. *Georgia O'Keeffe and New Mexico* is the first book to analyze the artist's famous depictions of these Southwestern landscapes. Beautifully illustrated and gracefully written, the book accompanies an exhibition of the same name at the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It reproduces the exhibition's 50 paintings and includes striking photographs of the sites that inspired them as well as diagrams of the region's distinctive geology. The book examines the magnificence of O'Keeffe's work through essays by three noted authors. Barbara Buhler Lynes, Curator of the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum and organizer of the exhibition, discusses the relationship of the artist's paintings to the places that inspired her. Frederick Turner offers an illuminating essay contrasting O'Keeffe's fabled aloofness from the well-established art colony in Santa Fe with her intense closeness to the local landscape she so fiercely loved. Lesley Poling-Kempes furnishes a fascinating chronicle of O'Keeffe's years in the region as well as a useful explanation of the geological forces that produced the intense colors and dramatic shapes of the landscapes O'Keeffe painted. EXHIBIT SCHEDULE: ? Georgia O'Keeffe Museum Santa Fe, New Mexico June 11-September 12, 2004 Columbus Museum of Art Columbus, Ohio October 1, 2004-January 16, 2005 Albright-Knox Art Gallery Buffalo, New York January 28-May 08, 2005

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## Customer Reviews

What sets this book apart from other small exhibition catalogues of O'Keeffe's work is the set of side-by-side comparisons of 20 paintings with recent, commissioned, full-color photos of their actual sites, which pinpoint the exact perspective of the paintings. Lynes (Georgia O'Keeffe: Catalogue Raisonne) is curator of Santa Fe's Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, and director of the research center there. In walking around "O'Keeffe country," reading the letters and studying the sites, Lynes discovered that such photos would be possible to make. She presents photos and paintings beautifully here in the essay that begins the book, and that leads to two sections of paintings that use figuration and abstraction to give (famously) "A Sense of Place." A second essay, by scholar Leslie Poling-Kempes, breaks O'Keeffe's cliff and rock faces into their geological strata, showing where Triassic gives way to Jurassic, and Jurassic to Cretaceous. There are 66 lush color plates in all, and 11 b&w reproductions, mostly of work from the 1930s. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Winner of the 2005 Book Award in Fine Art, Independent Publisher Book Awards "The illustrations are beautifully reproduced, and the book's three essays are intelligent, carefully researched, and elegantly presented."--Roxana Robinson, *The Wilson Quarterly* "In her meticulous account, Lesley Poling-Kempes discusses the geophysical origins of this land of 'extremes and contrast,' analyzing the layered stone formations and matching them up with O'Keeffe's keen observations of red shales, sandshales and silt stones created 200 million years ago. . . . Frederick W. Turner steps more intimately into O'Keeffe's preserve, discussing her eccentricities, her remoteness from others sharing the land . . . and the mythology she did much to create. . . . Once installed in New Mexico, though, she became an authentic new conquistador, he concludes, and entered her true final domain."--Dore Ashton, *Times Literary Supplement*

Really nice book but a bit disappointed that 1/2 the book is prose and not artwork or photos of O'Keeffe's locations of inspiration. Of 5 chapters, only a chapter and a half shows the side by side photo and painting. 2 interesting photos showing geologic layers named. Haven't read any of it yet. Will update when I do. What artwork is shown is beautiful, of course.

I bought this book for my mom who is an artist. She is a big fan of Georgia O'Keeffe's work. I asked her what she liked best about the book. She said that some of the paintings are accompanied by a photograph of the subject. This gave you insight as to how the artist converted the photo image into her style of painting.

I was visiting friends in New Mexico. We took this book with us on our tour of Abiquiu and Ghost Ranch where she lived and painted. It was exciting to have the book with us because it shows a photograph of the scene she painted and the painting itself next to it. Add being there and seeing it in person while we read about it and it made for a perfect day. It was on this trip that the true value of her contribution to art made itself clear to me. I even have a photo of her in my studio. I guess I'm a fan.

I bought this book partially because of having lived at Ghost Ranch briefly during the time that Georgia O'Keeffe lived and painted there. I love her New Mexico paintings, and had hoped to find many pictures of the incredible landscape which I knew and loved. While the book is very interesting, I find it quite short on plates of (both paintings and photographs of) the Ranch and Abiquiu, and some of her favourite features don't appear at all.

Paintings next to photos of the same place, taken from the same angle -- years later. Detailed commentary. Absolutely fascinating. Georgia, I love what you've done with the place. The title is significant. How many of us have a true sense of place? Think about it.

I wasn't an O'Keeffe fan after reading a biography about her many years ago, but this book captures her painting experience. I purchased it after visiting Ghost Ranch in New Mexico and taking the O'Keeffe painting tour. The book is inspiring showing pictures of the actual places she painted and her creative results.

Bought this for a friend traveling to New Mexico and she absolutely loved having the info and being at one with the environment

Having just visited Georgia O'Keeffe country, this book was fascinating to read. The author shows actual photos of the sites where O'Keeffe painted. Additionally, we read of times when O'Keeffe altered her vantage point within the painting to make the piece more visually interesting. A very

interesting and beautiful book for those who are O'Keeffe fans.

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