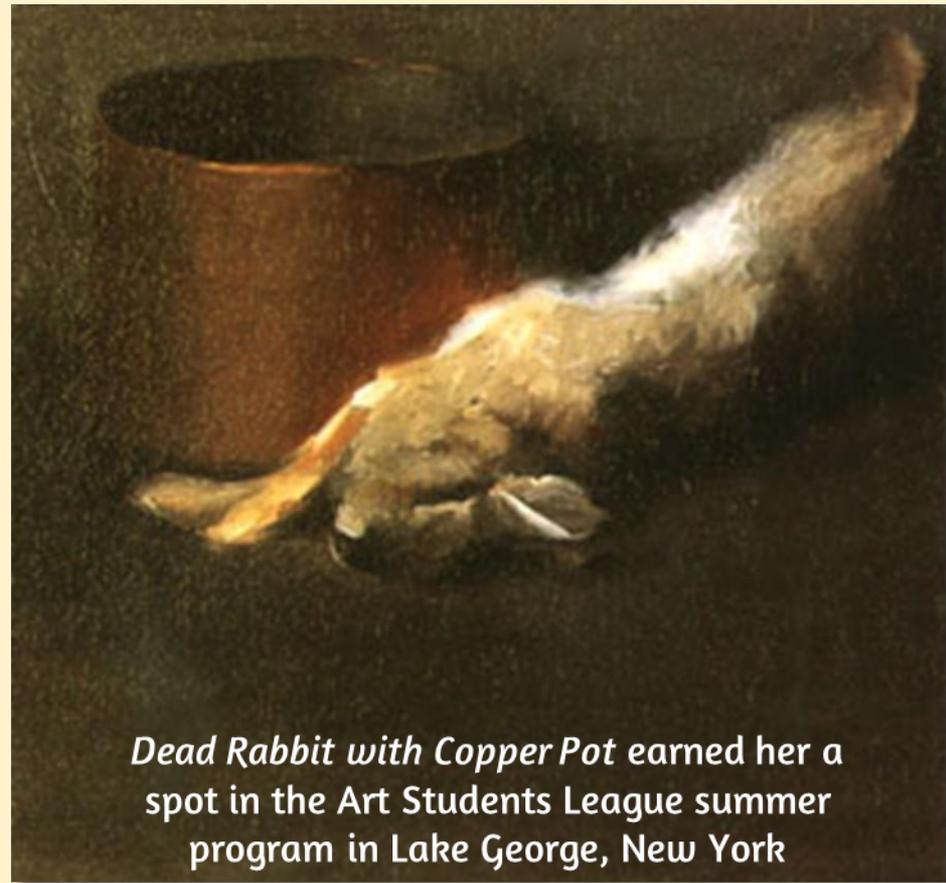


GEORGIA O'KEEFFE

NOVEMBER 15, 1887 - MARCH 6, 1986

EARLY LIFE

- GREW UP ON A FARM IN SAN PRAIRIE WISCONSIN
- STUDIED AT THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO FROM 1905-1906 AND AT THE ART STUDENTS LEAGUE IN NEW YORK FROM 1907-1908
- ORIGINALLY WAS TAUGHT TRADITIONAL REALIST PAINTING TECHNIQUES



Dead Rabbit with Copper Pot earned her a spot in the Art Students League summer program in Lake George, New York

EARLY LIFE

- SHE WENT TO CHICAGO TO WORK AS A COMMERCIAL ARTIST, BUT RETURNED TO LIVE WITH HER FAMILY AFTER 2 YEARS.
- IN 1912, SHE ATTENDED UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA WHERE SHE NETWORKED AND WAS INTRODUCED TO ARTHUR WESLEY DOW (AN ARTIST INSPIRED BY JAPANESE ART)
- SHE EXPERIMENTED WITH NEW TECHNIQUES THAT BROKE FROM REALISM INTO A MORE ABSTRACT STYLE OF ART



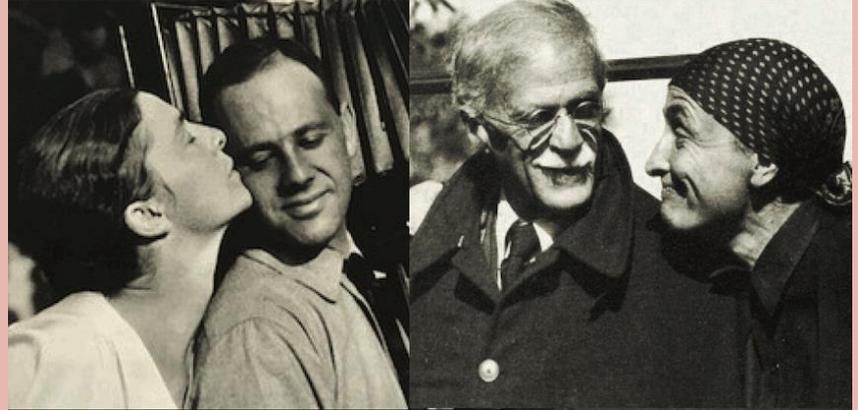
FIRST EXPOSURE

- SENT SOME OF HER ABSTRACT WORK TO FRIEND ANITA POLLITZER IN NY
- WHO SHOWED THEM TO ALFRED STIEGLITZ A GREAT PHOTOGRAPHER WHO HAD ONE OF THE FIRST MODERN ART EXHIBITS



EARLY CAREER AND LOVE LIFE

- SHORTLY AFTER THESE DRAWINGS, O'KEEFFE BEGAN TO COMMUNICATE WITH ALFRED STIEGLITZ. HE WAS A FAMOUS PHOTOGRAPHER WHO OWNED A GALLERY IN NY.
- HE DISPLAYED HER WORK WITHOUT HER KNOWING AFTER MAILING SOME OF HER ART TO HER FRIEND WHO WORKED FOR STIEGLITZ
- SHE DISCOVERED THIS AND CONTINUED TO ALLOW HIM TO PRESENT HER ART; HE BOOSTED HER CAREER BY BEING A SOURCE OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND EVEN PRESENTED HER FIRST SOLO ART GALLERY
- DESPITE BEING 23 YEARS OLDER AND MARRIED, STIEGLITZ AND O'KEEFFE BEGAN A LOVE AFFAIR THAT CAUSED STIEGLITZ TO DIVORCE HIS WIFE AND MARRY O'KEEFFE

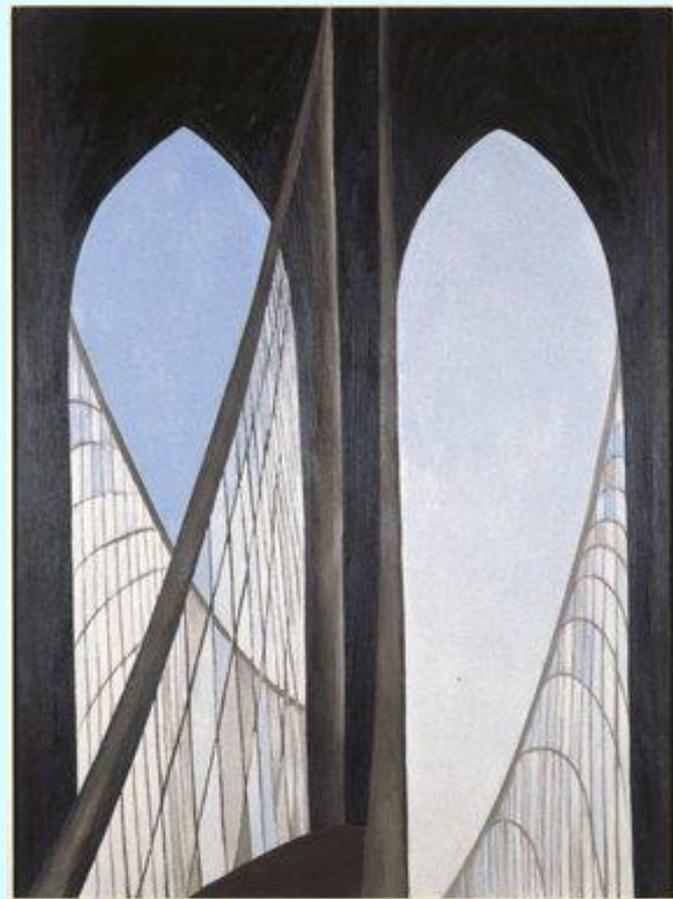


O'Keeffe's Cityscapes

- O'KEEFFE WAS VERY INSPIRED BY THE MODERN ART MOVEMENT, SO SHE DECIDED TO PAINT A COMMON SYMBOL OF MODERN LIFE: NEW YORK SKYSCRAPERS
- *CITY NIGHTS* SIMPLIFIES THE MODERN ARCHITECTURE INTO GEOMETRIC FORMS THAT DOMINATE THE CANVAS; THE PERSPECTIVE OF THIS PIECE PLACES THE VIEWER BETWEEN THE TWO BUILDINGS AND EXPRESSES A FEELING OF INSIGNIFICANCE OF THE VIEWER COMPARED TO THESE GIANTS



*City
Night*
(1926)

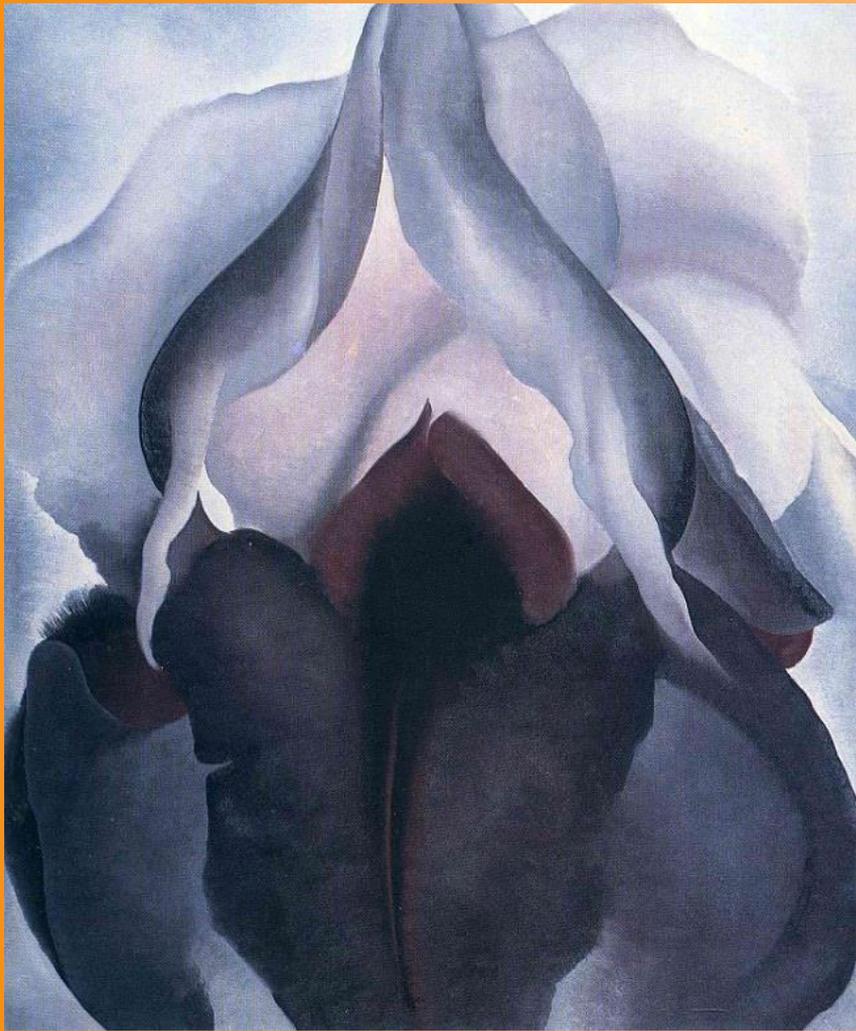


CHANGE IN DIRECTION OF HER ART

- MANY NUDES OF HER WERE EXHIBITED AT STIEGLITZ'S 1921 RETROSPECTIVE
- SHE WAS PUBLICLY KNOWN AS A SENSUAL PERSON AND HER ABSTRACT WORK BEGAN TO BE INTERPRETED AS "EXPRESSIONS OF HER SEXUALITY"
- SHE DISLIKED THESE INTERPRETATIONS AND BEGAN TO SWITCH TO MORE RECOGNIZABLE SUBJECTS
- EVENTUALLY PEOPLE SAW HER FLOWERS THIS WAY ALSO



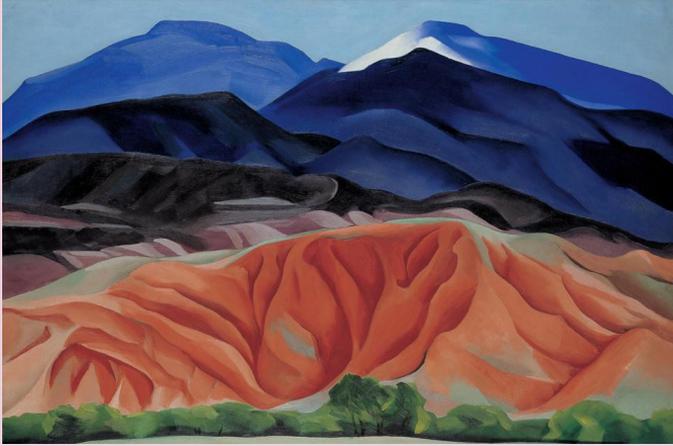
Petunia No. 2



*Black Iris (left) and Oriental Poppies
(top)*



SECOND CHANGE IN THE DIRECTION OF HER ART



- 1929 FIRST SUMMER IN NEW MEXICO
- CONSIDERED IT A SPIRITUAL HOME
- SETTLED PERMANENTLY IN 1949 AFTER HER HUSBAND'S DEATH IN 1946
- REESTABLISHED HERSELF AS A "LONER" IN THE DESERT
- CONTINUED ABSTRACT ART WITH THE NORTHERN NEW MEXICO DESERT AS HER SUBJECT







PEDERNAL

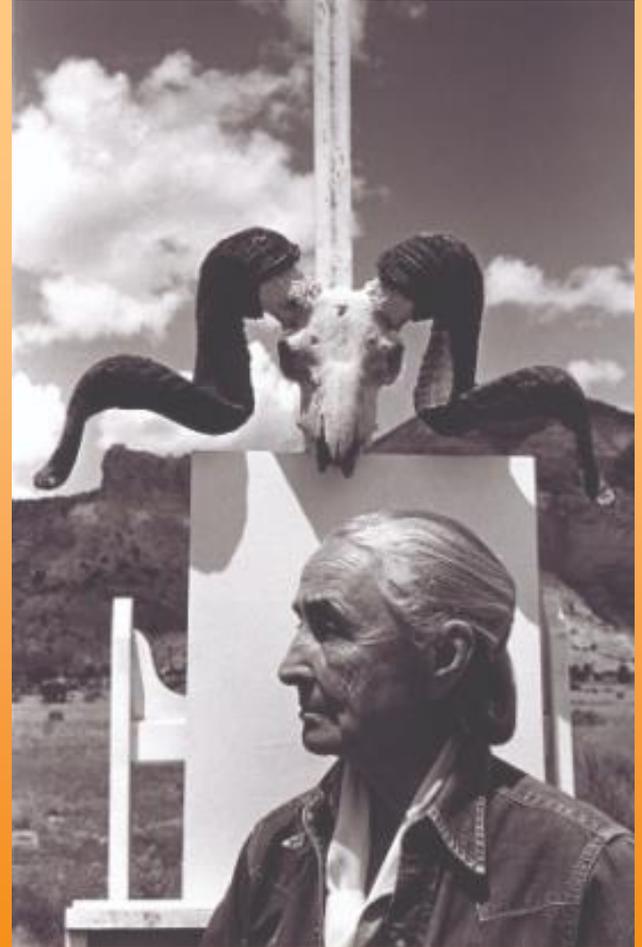
SHE SAID THAT "GOD TOLD ME THAT IF I PAINTED IT ENOUGH, HE WOULD GIVE IT TO ME"





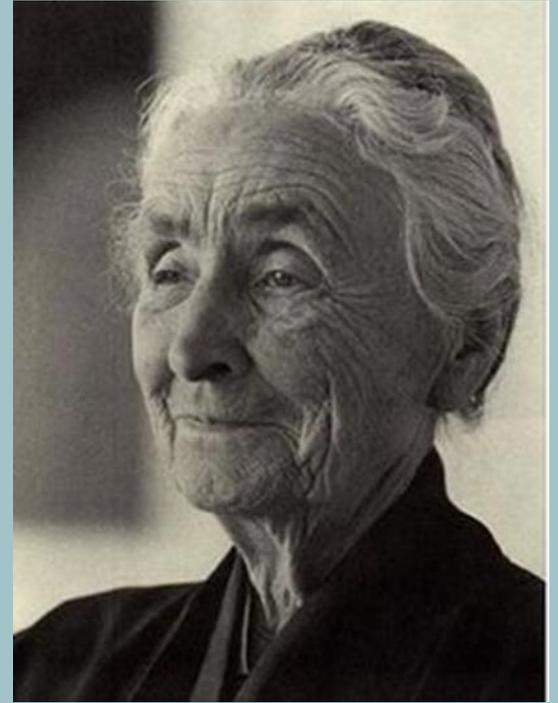
Later Life

- IN 1949, SHE WAS ELECTED TO THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ART AND LETTERS
- DURING THE 1950S AND 1960S, SHE TRAVELLED THE WORLD, SEEKING OUT INSPIRATION FROM DIFFERENT LOCATIONS
- O'KEEFFE BEGAN TO LOSE HER EYESIGHT LATER IN LIFE, BUT PERSISTED TO PAINT WITH THE HELP OF HER ASSISTANTS AND PUBLISHED A BOOK TITLED *GEORGIA O'KEEFFE* IN 1976
- SHE WAS AWARDED THE MEDAL OF FREEDOM BY PRESIDENT FORD AND THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS
- GEORGIA O'KEEFFE DIED ON MARCH 6, 1986 AT THE AGE OF 98



SIGNIFICANCE

- O'KEEFFE PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN AMERICAN ART
 - SHE IS OFTEN CALLED THE "MOTHER OF AMERICAN MODERNISM"
- FIRST AMERICAN ABSTRACT ARTIST
- THOUGH SHE WOULD RATHER LET THE PAINTINGS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES, HER PORTRAYAL OF NATURE OFTEN GLORIFIED THE FEMALE ANATOMY, CONTRIBUTING TO THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT.
- OPENED DOORS FOR WOMEN IN ART



Activity

1. New Mexico Landscape
2. New York Skyline
3. Flower

New Mexico Landscape



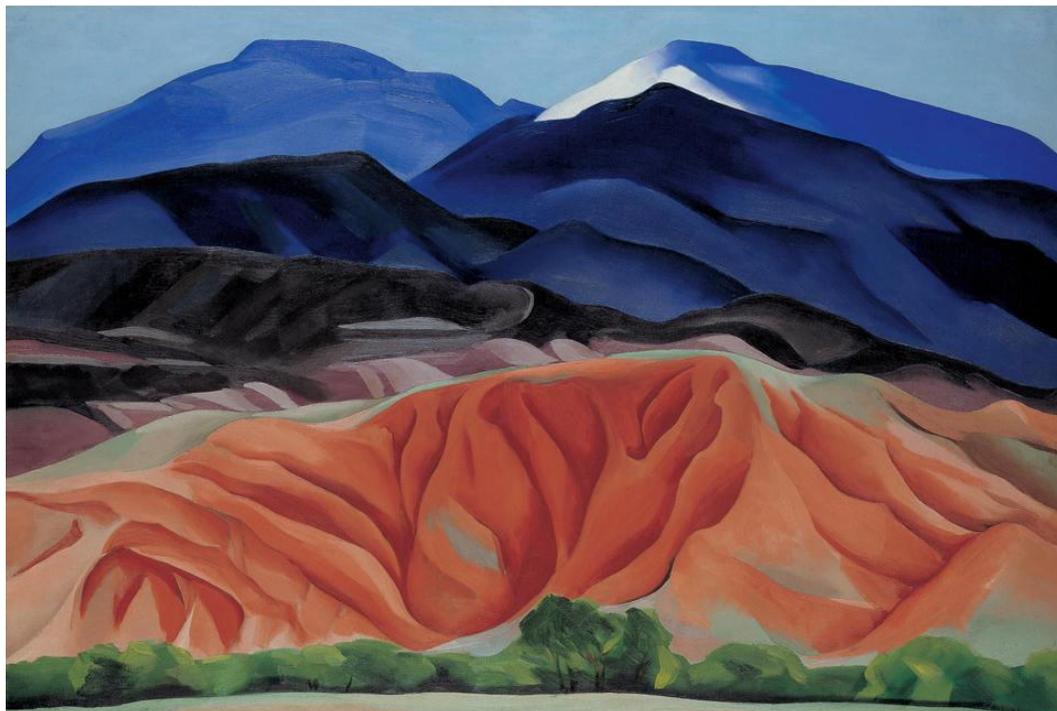


New York Skyline





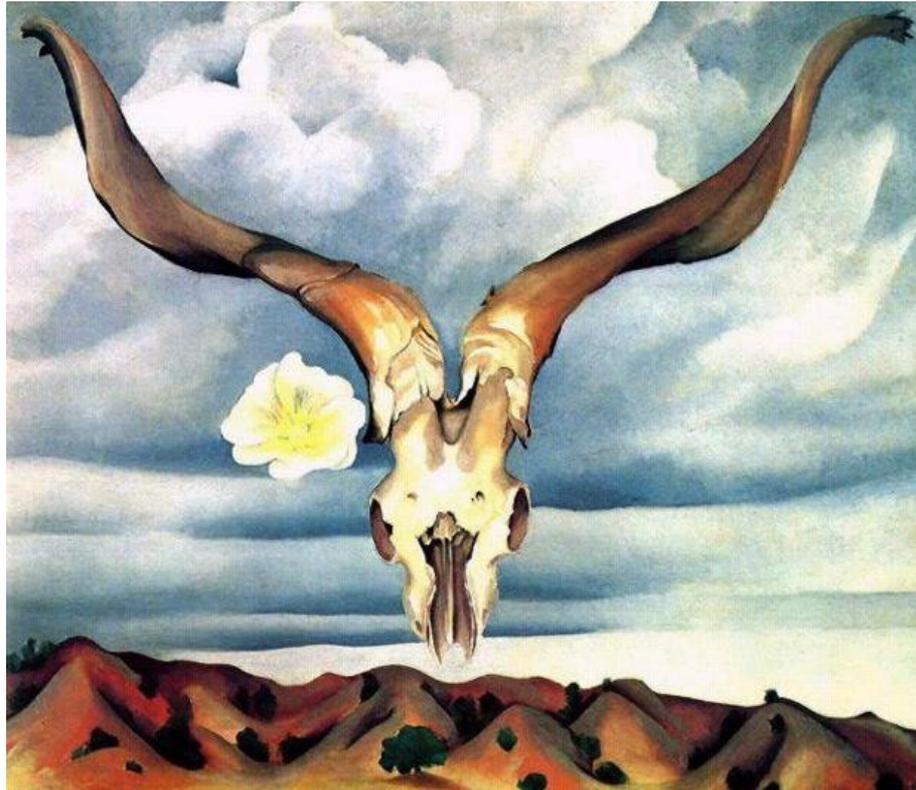
New Mexico Landscape



Georgia O'Keeffe - "Black Mesa Landscape, New Mexico/Out Back of Marie's II", 1930 - Oil on canvas; 24 1/4 x 36 1/4 in. - Collection of the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, gift of The Burnett Foundation; © 2009 Georgia O'Keeffe Museum/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York



New Mexico Landscape





Flower



Works Cited

<https://www.okeeffemuseum.org/>