

New Mexico Museum of Art News

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GEORGIA O'KEEFFE'S LEGACY IN NEW MEXICO

Santa Fe, NM—Museum visitors will soon have the opportunity to intimately experience the artwork of one of America's greatest painters, Georgia O'Keeffe. Presenting works from their permanent collection, The Museum of Fine Arts will display O'Keeffe's rich blue skies and beautiful stark landscapes in the Beauregard Gallery. *Georgia O'Keeffe's Legacy in New Mexico*, a permanent exhibit curated by Joseph Traugott, features gems that have been out of public view for quite some time. The show opens to the public on Friday, February 17, 2006. Friday evenings are always free at the museum.

Born on a farm in Wisconsin, O'Keeffe lived in Virginia, Texas, and New York before settling in northern New Mexico, which she affectionately referred to as "her land." Inspired by the vast spaces and brilliant hues of the high desert, the artist once said, "All the earth colors of the painter's palette are out there in the many miles of badlands."

In 1940, O'Keeffe purchased a house at Ghost Ranch near the town of Abiquiu. From her window, she often gazed out onto a flat-topped mesa called the Pedernal, which she painted many times throughout her career. Speaking of her beloved mesa, she said, "It's my private mountain; it belongs to me. God told me if I painted it enough, I could have it."

A painting inspired by O'Keeffe's mesa—titled "Red Hills with the Pedernal"—will be on display in the new exhibition. Other works will include "Red Hills", "Blue River", and "Dark and Lavender Leaf." The pieces highlight O'Keeffe's spare vision, with flattened forms and harmonious hues.

O'Keeffe's paintings will glow in the recently refurbished Beauregard Gallery, a period setting in the Museum of Fine Arts that offers a unique context for viewing her works. The museum's collection of O'Keeffe paintings is well-loved in the community, and underscores her accomplishments in New Mexico, which have become icons of the Southwest.

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*The **Museum of Fine Arts** was founded in 1917 as the Art Gallery of the Museum of New Mexico. Housed in a spectacular Pueblo Revival building designed by I. H. and William M. Rapp, it was based on their New Mexico building at the Panama-California Exposition (1915). The museum's architecture inaugurated what has come to be known as "Santa Fe Style." For more than 85 years the Museum has collected and exhibited work by leading artists from New Mexico and elsewhere. This tradition continues today with a wide-array of exhibitions with work from the world's leading artists.*

The Museum of Fine Arts is a division of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs.

Information for the Public:

The Museum of Fine Arts is located on the Plaza at 107 W. Palace Avenue. Call 505-476-5072 for more information, or visit www.mfasantafe.org

Hours: Tuesday – Sunday, 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. Open Free on Fridays, 5:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M.

Admission: Children 16 & under free. New Mexico residents with I.D. free on Sundays. New Mexico resident Senior Citizens (age 60+) with I.D. free Wednesdays. Museum Foundation members free. Adults (age 17 and above): \$7.00 for non-state residents; \$5.00 for New Mexico residents.