

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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AUTHOR AND ADVISORY BOARD NAMED

FOR GEORGIA O'KEEFFE CATALOGUE RAISONNE

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The National Gallery of Art and the Georgia O'Keeffe Foundation have named Barbara Buhler Lynes as author of the first completely documented and fully illustrated catalogue raisonné of the works of Georgia O'Keeffe, one of America's foremost artists. Lynes, whose connoisseurship is originally rooted in Renaissance studies, is also a widely published scholar of O'Keeffe's art. On leave from her job as professor of art history at Maryland Institute, College of Art, Baltimore, Lynes will immediately begin work on the catalogue raisonné, investigating more than 2,000 works of art. Hundreds of the works are unpublished and unknown to the public.

Members of the catalogue raisonné advisory committee have also been selected. They are William Agee, professor of art, Hunter College, City University of New York; Wanda Corn, Anthony P. Meier Family Professor and Director, Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford University; Charles C. Eldredge, Hall Distinguished Professor of American Art, University of Kansas;

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and Sarah Greenough, curator of photographs, National Gallery of Art.

"We are pleased that such outstanding scholars and curators are working on this important project," said Earl A. Powell III, director, National Gallery of Art. "We anticipate that this publication will promote a fundamental change in the perception of O'Keeffe's art as this will be the first time that the full diversity of her oeuvre is examined."

"This catalogue raisonné will be a major contribution to the fields of American art and, in particular, American modernism," said Elizabeth Glassman, president of the Georgia O'Keeffe Foundation. "Ms. Lynes is singularly qualified to accomplish this groundbreaking task, and it is our intention that she see every work created by Georgia O'Keeffe in public and private collections throughout the world." The project is directed by Glassman and Ruth Fine, curator of modern prints and drawings at the National Gallery of Art.

The information on the oil paintings, works on paper in watercolor, pastel, charcoal and graphite, and sculpture will be compiled over the next four years. For each entry the multi-volume publication will provide titles and alternate titles, dates and alternate dates, dimensions, and media, as well as a detailed provenance and exhibition history.

Lynes has a Ph.D. in art history from Indiana University, Bloomington, as well as a Ph.D. in French literature from the

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University of California. She has received a number of grants and fellowships, including the National Endowment for the Humanities Travelling Fellowship (1992), a grant from the American Philosophical Society (1980), a Chester Dale Fellowship, National Gallery of Art (1977-1978), and a Samuel H. Kress Foundation Fellowship (1976-1977). Her writings on O'Keeffe include O'Keeffe, Stieglitz and the Critics, 1916-1929, University of Chicago Press, 1991, and Georgia O'Keeffe, Rizzoli International Publications, Inc., forthcoming 1993.

O'Keeffe became a central figure in the dynamic circle of artists associated with photographer Alfred Stieglitz shortly after her successful 1916 show of charcoal abstractions in his gallery at 291 Fifth Avenue in New York. She became known for her bold treatments of a wide variety of subjects including abstractions, flowers, New York cityscapes, and landscapes, particularly of the southwest. O'Keeffe and Stieglitz married in 1924, and in 1949, following his death three years earlier, she moved permanently from New York to New Mexico where she had spent part of most years since 1929.

O'Keeffe, who died in 1986 at the age of 98, had a long association with the National Gallery of Art. The Gallery has received more than 1600 photographs by Stieglitz as a result of O'Keeffe's generosity. The photographs from the key set of his work, including 330 of his masterful portraits of her, makes the National Gallery the world's largest repository of his

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photographs. O'Keeffe also donated selections from the significant collection Stieglitz formed of paintings and works on paper by American modernists, such as Arthur Dove, Marsden Hartley, and John Marin. Upon her death the Gallery was bequeathed eight of her paintings including the important series Jack in the Pulpit.

O'Keeffe played a vital role in the organization of the National Gallery's 1983 exhibition Photographs by Alfred Stieglitz. A centennial exhibition of her own paintings and watercolors opened in Washington in 1987.

The Georgia O'Keeffe Foundation was formed in 1989. Its principal mission is to perpetuate the artistic legacy of Georgia O'Keeffe. The members of the Foundation's board of directors are Richard R. Brettell, Charles C. Eldredge, Juan Hamilton, Raymond R. Krueger, and June O'Keeffe Sebring.

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