



TIMELINE

- 1887 On Nov. 15, Georgia Totto O’Keeffe is born near Sun Prairie, Wis.
- 1898 O’Keeffe and two of her sisters begin art lessons taught by their grammar school teacher. Sometime after, she tells a friend, “I am going to be an artist.”
- 1907 She enrolls at the Art Students League in New York City, where she studies with William Merritt Chase.
- 1912 She moves to Texas to serve as supervisor of art in Amarillo public schools.
- 1914 O’Keeffe goes to Columbia University Teachers College in New York, where she meets artist Arthur Wesley Dow. She later credited Dow as being the strongest influence in her development as an artist.
- 1915 Inspired by Dow’s principles, she discards old mannerisms and materials, and begins a new series of abstractions in charcoal.
- 1916 O’Keeffe’s friend Anita Pollitzer shows the artist’s drawings to Alfred Stieglitz, owner of the avant-garde art gallery 291. “Little did I dream that one day she would bring to me drawings that would mean so much to 291 as yours have meant,” Stieglitz wrote to O’Keeffe that year.
- She returns to Texas to become the head of the art department at West Texas State Normal College, keeping the position until 1918.
- 1917 Stieglitz hosts her first solo show. With her younger sister, Claudia, O’Keeffe vacations and paints in Colorado. On the return trip, her train makes a stop in New Mexico, creating the opportunity for her visit to Santa Fe.
- 1918 She accepts Stieglitz’s offer of financial support, resigning from the Texas college to pursue painting full time in New York.
- 1924 She begins her distinctive large floral paintings. O’Keeffe and Stieglitz marry.
- 1927 The Brooklyn Museum presents her first museum exhibition.
- 1928 Six of her calla lily paintings sell for \$25,000, which is the largest amount ever paid at the time for a group of paintings by a living American artist.
- 1929 O’Keeffe visits Taos and art doyenne Mabel Dodge Luhan. This begins a pattern of summers spent painting in the Southwest. She is represented in “Paintings by Nineteen Living Americans,” the second exhibition at the new Museum of Modern Art in New York.

- 1934 Stieglitz shows a retrospective of 44 O’Keeffe paintings from 1915 to 1927. From this show, the Metropolitan Museum of Art buys its first work by the painter.
- 1940 O’Keeffe buys a house and seven acres on her summer retreat, Ghost Ranch.
- 1943 The Art Institute of Chicago presents her first full-scale retrospective. The artist begins a new series of paintings inspired by animal pelvic bones.
- 1945 After 15 years of trying, O’Keeffe buys her second house, an abandoned 5,000-square-foot Spanish Colonial-era adobe from the archdiocese of the Roman Catholic Church. The three acres in Abiquiu, New Mexico, costs \$10.
- 1946 MoMA holds a retrospective.
- Stieglitz suffers a cerebral hemorrhage and dies shortly after, at the age of 82. O’Keeffe returns to Abiquiu that fall and begins a series of paintings of her patio, which she’d pursue until 1960.
- 1949 After spending time settling her husband’s estate, she returns to New Mexico permanently. She divides her time between Abiquiu (winters and springs) and Ghost Ranch (summers and autumns).
- 1959 O’Keeffe travels around the world for almost four months, visiting Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Iran, Syria and Israel.
- 1970 The Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City hosts a major retrospective of her work.
- 1971 The artist suffers a partial loss of vision, leaving her with only peripheral sight.
- 1972 O’Keeffe completes her last unassisted oil painting.
- 1977 She receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest American civilian honor.
- 1984 In failing health, O’Keeffe moves into a friend’s home in Santa Fe.
- 1986 O’Keeffe dies. At her request, no funeral or memorial service is held. Her ashes are scattered over her beloved landscape of Northern New Mexico.
- 2014 O’Keeffe’s 1932 painting *Jimson Weed/White Flower No. 1* sells for \$44.5 million, more than three times the previous world auction record for any female artist. Smithsonian names O’Keeffe as one of the *100 Most Significant Americans of All Time*, the only female artist to make the list.

-- Adapted from Charles C. Eldredge’s “Georgia O’Keeffe: American and Modern” and other sources