

22 & 23 August 2025

Modern art, modern love

Georgia O'Keeffe and Alfred Stieglitz

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Lecture summary

Alfred Stieglitz, a pioneering photographer and promoter of modern art, recognised Georgia O'Keeffe's talent early on and championed her work, showcasing it prominently in his gallery. They quickly formed a deep, emotional and intellectual bond, and the passion of their relationship bled into their respective work, visible in the intimacy of Stieglitz's portraits of O'Keeffe and the sensuous nature of O'Keeffe's bold, corporal abstractions of nature. But their relationship was also complicated by jealousy, rivalry, distance and long periods of separation, during which O'Keeffe asserted her independence and devoted herself to a new love, the desert landscapes of New Mexico.

List of works (in order of presentation)

1. Gertrude Käsebier, *Alfred Stieglitz (half-length portrait)*, 1902, photograph; Tony Vaccaro, *Georgia O'Keeffe, with Pelvis Series, Red with Yellow (1945)*, 1961, colour photograph.
2. Alfred Stieglitz, *Georgia O'Keeffe at "291"*, 1917, photograph; *Georgia O'Keeffe—Hands*, 1917, photograph.
3. Georgia O'Keeffe, *Poppies*, 1950, oil, 91.5 x 76 cm; *The Mountain, New Mexico*, 1931, oil, 76 x 91.5 cm.
4. Alfred Stieglitz, *My Father*, 1894, photograph; *Stieglitz Family at Oaklawn, Lake George*, 1890, photograph.
5. Alfred Stieglitz, *Self-Portrait, Cortina*, 1890, photograph; *Professor Vogel*, 1886, photograph.
6. Alfred Stieglitz, *On Lake Thun, Switzerland (The Approaching Storm)*, 1886, photograph.
7. Alfred Stieglitz, *Sun Rays—Paula*, 1889, photograph.
8. Alfred Stieglitz, *The City of Ambition*, 1910, photograph.
9. Alfred Stieglitz, *Winter—Fifth Avenue (cropped version)*, 1893, photograph; *The Terminal*, 1893, photograph.
10. Alfred Stieglitz, *Outward Bound (Emmeline)*, 1894, photograph; *Emmeline Stieglitz*, 1910, autochrome.
11. Alfred Stieglitz, *Kitty*, 1898, photograph; *Spring—The Child (detail)*, 1901, photograph.
12. Edward J. Steichen, *Photo-Secession*, 1905, woodcut with gilt paper 18 x 6.5 cm; Alfred Stieglitz, *First Steichen Exhibition, Main Room—Photo-Secession*, 1906, photograph.
13. Alfred Stieglitz, *The Steerage*, 1907, photograph.
14. Alfred Stieglitz, *Brancusi Exhibition at 291*, 1914, photograph; Arthur Dove, *Movement No. 1*, 1905, pastel on canvas, 54.5 x 45.5 cm.
15. John Marin, *Chartres Cathedral*, 1910, etching, 28.5 x 24 cm; *Brooklyn Bridge No. 6*, 1913, etching, 27.5 x 22.5 cm; *Brooklyn Bridge*, c. 1912, watercolour and charcoal on paper, 47 x 39.5 cm.
16. Alfred Stieglitz, *Last Days of 291*, 1917, photograph; Francis Picabia, *Here, This Is Stieglitz Here*, 1917, ink, graphite, and collage on paper, 76 x 51 cm.
17. Marcel Duchamp, *Fountain*, 1917, porcelain urinal, 30.5 x 38 x 45.5 cm, photograph by Alfred Stieglitz; Marsden Hartley, *The Warriors*, 1913, oil on copper, 121 x 120.5 cm.
18. Georgia O'Keeffe, *Dead Rabbit with Copper Pot*, 1908, oil on canvas, 50.5 x 60.5 cm.
19. Georgia O'Keeffe, *Early Abstraction*, 1915, charcoal on paper, 60.5 x 46.5 cm; *Drawing No. 2—Special*, 1915, charcoal on paper, 60 x 46.5 cm; *Special No. 33*, 1915, pastel on paper, 28 x 35.5 cm
20. Georgia O'Keeffe, *Evening Star III*, 1917, watercolour, 22.5 x 30.5 cm; *Sunrise*, 1916, watercolour, 22.5 x 30 cm
21. Georgia O'Keeffe, three watercolours from the *Nude Series*, 1917 (all 30.5 x 22.5 cm).
22. Georgia O'Keeffe, *Abstraction*, 1916, plaster maquette, 25.5 x 25.5 x 4 cm
23. Alfred Stieglitz, *Georgia O'Keeffe—Exhibition at 291 (detail)*, 1917, photograph; *Georgia O'Keeffe—Hand*, 1919, photograph; *Georgia O'Keeffe—Feet (detail)*, 1919, photograph
24. Alfred Stieglitz, *Interpretation*, 1919, photograph; Georgia O'Keeffe, *Music—Pink and Blue I*, 1918, oil on canvas, 89 x 74 cm; *Music Pink and Blue II*, 1918, oil on canvas, 89 x 76 cm.

25. Alfred Stieglitz, *Lake George*, 1922, photograph; Georgia O'Keeffe, *Lake George, Autumn*, 1922, oil on canvas, 40.5 x 68.5 cm; *Lake George, Reflection*, 1922, oil on canvas, 86.5 x 147.5 cm.

26. Alfred Stieglitz, *Dancing Trees*, 1922, photograph; Georgia O'Keeffe, *Birch and Pine Trees – Pink*, 1925, oil on canvas, 91.5 x 56 cm; *Lake George with White Birch*, 1921, oil on canvas, 89 x 76 cm.

27. Alfred Stieglitz, *Apple and Drops of Rain*, Lake George, 1922, photograph; Georgia O'Keeffe, *Apple Family* – 2, 1920, oil on canvas, 20.5 x 25.5 cm.

28. Alfred Stieglitz, *Rebecca Salsbury Strand*, 1922, two photographs.

29. Alfred Stieglitz, *From Room "3003"—The Shelton*, New York, 1927, photograph.

30. Georgia O'Keeffe, *The Shelton with Sunspots*, 1926, oil on canvas, 122.5 x 77 cm.

31. Georgia O'Keeffe, *City Night*, 1926, oil on canvas, 122 x 76 cm; *Radiator Building—Night, N.Y.*, 1926, oil on canvas, 122 x 76 cm; *East River from the Shelton (East River No. 1)*, 1926, oil on canvas, 68.5 x 56 cm.

32. Georgia O'Keeffe, *White Rose with Larkspur No. I*, 1927, oil on canvas, 91.5 x 76 cm

33. Georgia O'Keeffe, *Oriental Poppies*, 1926, oil on canvas, 101.5 x 76 cm.

34. Georgia O'Keeffe, *Black Iris*, 1926, oil on canvas, 91.5 x 76 cm; *Black Iris IV*, 1936, oil on canvas, 91.5 x 61 cm; *White Calla and Roses*, 1926, oil on canvas, 76 x 122 cm.

35. Alfred Stieglitz, *Equivalents* series photographs, 1923-1926.

36. Georgia O'Keeffe, *Two Calla Lilies Together*, 1928, pastel on board, 40.5 x 25.5 cm; *Two Calla Lilies*, 1928, oil on board, 23.5 x 32.5 cm.

37. Georgia O'Keeffe, *The Lawrence Tree*, 1929, oil on canvas, 79 x 99.5 cm.

38. Georgia O'Keeffe, *Black Cross with Stars and Blue*, 1929, oil on canvas, 101.5 cm x 76 cm; *Black Cross*, 1929, oil on canvas, 99 x 76 cm.

39. Georgia O'Keeffe, *Black Mesa Landscape, New Mexico/Out Back of Marie's II*, 1930, oil on canvas, 61.5 x 92 cm.

40. Georgia O'Keeffe, *Deer's Skull with Pedernal*, 1936, oil on canvas, 91.5 x 76.5 cm.

41. Georgia O'Keeffe, *Cow's Skull: Red, White and Blue*, 1931, oil on canvas, 101.5 x 91 cm; *Horse's Skull with White Rose*, 1931, oil on canvas, 76 x 40 cm.

42. Alfred Stieglitz, *Georgia O'Keeffe*, 1931 photograph; *Georgia O'Keeffe—Hands and Horse Skull*, 1931, photograph.

43. Alfred Stieglitz, *From My Window at the Shelton, North*, 1931, photograph; *From My Window at An American Place*, 1932, photograph; Georgia O'Keeffe, *Manhattan*, 1932, oil on canvas, 214 x 122.5 cm.

44. Alfred Stieglitz, *Dorothy Norman XLIII*, 1930-1931, photograph; *Dorothy Norman LXXXVI*, 1930-1931, photograph; Dorothy Norman, *Alfred Stieglitz XXI*, New York, 1944, photograph.

45. Ansel Adams, *Alfred Stieglitz at An American Place*, 1944, two photographs, 25 x 20 cm and 20 x 25.5 cm.

46. Georgia O'Keeffe, *The Black Place*, 1943, oil on canvas, 51 x 91.5 cm; *From the Faraway, Nearby*, 1937, oil on canvas, 91.5 x 102 cm.

47. Georgia O'Keeffe, *Pelvis II*, 1944, oil on canvas, 101.5 x 76 cm; *Pelvis IV*, 1944, oil on canvas, 92 x 102.5 cm.

48. Georgia O'Keeffe, *Bare Trees*, 1946, oil on canvas, 75 x 100 cm.

49. Georgia O'Keeffe, *Untitled (Mt Fuji)*, 1960, oil on canvas, 122 x 184 cm; *Machu Picchu I*, 1957, oil on canvas, 29 x 20 cm.

50. Georgia O'Keeffe, *Sky Above the Flat White Cloud II*, 1960-1964, oil on canvas, 76 x 101.5 cm

51. Georgia O'Keeffe, *Sky Above Clouds IV*, 1965, oil on canvas, 244 x 731.5 cm; Alfred Stieglitz, *Equivalent*, 1927, gelatin silver print, 12 x 9 cm.

References

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