



Beginners: Find Your Inner O’Keeffe and Find Yourself

Workshop ID: **G200433**

Start date: April 19, 2020 (check-in day)

End date: April 24, 2020 (check-out day)

I look forward to our days together. You will learn about O’Keeffe and her approach to art, get inspiration from the subjects and landscape that she loved, and create your own works.

Learning Objectives

We will be guided by the approach O’Keeffe learned (from her most influential teacher) to “fill a space in a beautiful way” as we focus on line, color, and shape — while in the landscape that inspired O’Keeffe. But you will develop your own creative expression. This course provides an affirming artistic experience for all skill levels, from the novice to experienced artist who wants to try something new and want to know about O’Keeffe, her life, and her art.

Itinerary and Topics Covered (please note that this is subject to change)

Sunday, April 19 Check-in begins at 3:00 p.m. at the Welcome Center. Ranch Orientation at 6:45 p.m. (after dinner); then we meet for introductions and a course overview.

Monday, April 20 9 a.m.–noon in studio for an “O’Keeffe exercise” experimenting with composition; meet at Welcome Center at 2:45 for 3 p.m. O’Keeffe Landscape Tour (free with course); 7–8:30 p.m. studio session continues

Tuesday, April 21 Make bag lunch at breakfast; morning and afternoon we have an off-site trip to O’Keeffe’s “White Place”; evening free (unless there is demand for a session in the studio)

Wednesday, April 22 9 a.m.–noon in studio; afternoon free; afternoon free; 7–8:30 p.m. in studio continuing works, get a new project in composition and color and a take-home task

Thursday, April 23 9 a.m.–noon complete works in studio or outside, prepare work for display, discuss work; afternoon free; evening all-ranch Celebration

Friday, April 24 Clear out room by 10 a.m. (It is OK to stay and hike or relax but must pay for additional meals and arrange overnight housing.)

General Workshop Hours

Meals served at 8 a.m., noon, and 5 p.m. Sessions morning (9 a.m.–noon) and evening (7–8:30 p.m.); afternoons in class or free (1:30–5 p.m.). The studio will be open all hours for those who want to work during free times.

Materials to Bring with You

- Glue stick
- Please bring a pair of scissors, if you can (If you fly with only carry-on luggage, you can't)
- Optional: Small sketch pad and pencils or pens
- If you already own art materials that you like to use (paint, colored pencils, etc.), bring those. If you DON'T, please purchase materials of your choice for this class. If you have no preference, I suggest:

- A set (20 or more) of water-soluble oil pastels. DickBlick.com sells two brands: Cretacolor AquaStics (set of 20 assorted colors, under \$40) and Portfolio brand (water-soluble oil pastels, student quality, 24 assorted colors, under \$10) plus added tax and shipping charges.
- Pad of 9x12-inch, 140-pound, hot-press watercolor paper
- Paint brushes, 2 or 3 medium sizes (not very small nor really large), pointed and/or flat brushes

Also Bring comfortable walking shoes, a brimmed hat, sunscreen, clothes for changeable weather (warm/cold, sun/rain/snow), and a water bottle.

Materials That Will Be Supplied

Participants need to bring their own basic supplies listed above. I will bring a variety of other materials for experimentation.

All Skill Levels Welcome

This course is ideal for beginners, amateurs, and artists wanting a fresh approach. Novices will learn the most. Advanced artists will experience exercises and get information that will help them understand O'Keeffe and her art.

Optional Reading

There is *no* required reading. Past participants have said that they would have appreciated an advance reading list. If you are of like mind, here it is:

- For its accuracy and detail, I like Roxana Robinson's biography *Georgia O'Keeffe*, first published by Harper & Row in 1989. Also *Portrait of an Artist: A Biography of Georgia O'Keeffe* by Laurie Lisle, from Washington Square Press, is respected and is easier to read (fewer details).
 - If you want to hear what others who worked for O'Keeffe have to say about their experience, you could read *Weekends with O'Keeffe* by C. S. Merrill*, published by La Alameda Press, or *Remembering Miss O'Keeffe* by Margaret Wood, published by Museum of New Mexico Press.
- *Carol Merrill briefly mentions me twice in her book.
- You can browse online or visit your local library to view illustrated books of O'Keeffe's art to get an idea of the range of her work, well beyond flowers and New Mexico landscapes.
 - If you have little or no experience drawing, that's perfectly OK. But if you want to get a head start before coming to Ghost Ranch, I suggest visiting your local library for a basic book on drawing for beginners. Avoid books where the authors appear to be showing off their skills rather than giving easy instructions. The only book that looked OK when I visited the store was *Drawing Nature for the Absolute Beginner: A Clear & Easy Guide to Drawing Landscapes & Nature* by Mark and Mary Willenbrink, published by F&W Publications Inc.

NOTE: No reading is required. This list is only for those who want to do something extra before or after their week at Ghost Ranch.

About Anna Koster

I have taught art at the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum (Santa Fe), Nevada Museum of Art (Reno), Palo Alto (CA) Art Center, and San Jose (CA) Museum of Art. I first taught at Ghost Ranch in the 1970s, then returned in 2014 to lead annual O'Keeffe-related courses. I have two art degrees (BA and MFA) and worked at art museums for 35 years, including 15 years at Stanford University's Cantor Arts Center. Learn about me at my website: www.annakoster.com. My resume is online at annakoster.com/resume.

Visit my [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/AnnaKosterArt) at facebook.com/AnnaKosterArt. Visit our [Facebook group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/GOK.Lessons) "Lessons from Georgia O'Keeffe's Art, Life, Landscape" at [facebook.com/groups/GOK.Lessons](https://www.facebook.com/groups/GOK.Lessons); you can view posts or join the group and share there.

Contact: AnnaKosterArt@gmail.com. If you have any questions, feel free to email me.

I look forward to meeting you soon and to our experience together at Ghost Ranch!