

# GHOST RANCH



# Welcome

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## Practically Painting with O'Keeffe

Instructor: Anna Koster

Start Date: 9/28/2025, End Date: 10/04/2025

I look forward to our adventures together under the vast New Mexico sky, among the mesas and cliffs, in the land that Georgia O'Keeffe loved and made famous with her paintings. We will walk in her footsteps, literally, along paths that she trod. Those with more energy can hike up mesas and over ridges that she traversed.

Inspiration will follow us indoors as we immerse ourselves in the techniques studied and practiced by O'Keeffe. Studio sessions begin with an adaptation of an assignment that she, herself, gave. Learn how Arthur Wesley Dow's teaching liberated O'Keeffe's creativity and freed her to express herself. I will help you apply these same principles to your work and lead you through the distinct steps O'Keeffe employed before putting brush to canvas.

ALL SKILL LEVELS are welcome, from beginners to accomplished painters who want a new perspective or special "O'Keeffe experience." I encourage individuality and creativity. My goal is for you to find your own creative center and make your own unique works utilizing O'Keeffe's approach. We can anticipate a wealth of knowledge, ideas, and capabilities among workshop participants. Together we will foster a positive learning environment where all can explore.

**Please send a short "Got it!"** to [annakosterart@gmail.com](mailto:annakosterart@gmail.com), so I know you have this info.

I am excited to be meeting you on Sunday, Sept. 28 for our week together at Ghost Ranch! After reading the information below, let me know if you have questions.

Anna Koster email: [annakosterart@gmail.com](mailto:annakosterart@gmail.com) website: [www.annakoster.com](http://www.annakoster.com)

**For more information**, including the daily workshop schedule, learning outcomes, what to bring, and an optional reading list, **visit [annakoster.com/GR2025](http://annakoster.com/GR2025)**

### Instructor Background

I served as Georgia O'Keeffe weekend companion in 1976, then went on to earn a Masters of Fine Art degree and enjoy a long museum career. I have studied O'Keeffe's art and life and visited the archives at the O'Keeffe Foundation Research Center. Since 2014, I have been leading O'Keeffe-related workshops at Ghost Ranch, sharing what I have learned. Insights gained through my intimate experience with O'Keeffe enrich my courses, along with formal training, my own art practice, and decades of working in museums.

EDUCATION AND RETREAT CENTER

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I have also taught at the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum (Santa Fe), Nevada Museum of Art (Reno), Stanford University (CA) Continuing Studies Program, and San Jose (CA) Museum of Art. My museum career spanned 35 years, the last 15 at Stanford University's Cantor Arts Center. To learn more about me, visit [annakoster.com](http://annakoster.com) and see my resume at [annakoster.com/resume](http://annakoster.com/resume).

### Frequently Asked Questions

Questions specific to this workshop are below. For questions about Ghost Ranch food, lodging, and hospitality, visit <https://www.ghostranch.org/things-to-do/faqs/>. Travel information is at <https://www.ghostranch.org/plan-your-visit/your-stay/travel/>.

**Question:** What's the scoop on the Tuesday, Sept. 30 (3:30 p.m.) Georgia O'Keeffe Landscape Tour?

**Answer:** This tour lasts 1 hour and 15 minutes and goes by motor bus to areas near O'Keeffe's Ghost Ranch house that are otherwise off limits. The guide will point out sites of O'Keeffe's paintings and share information about her 50-year history at Ghost Ranch. The tour is recommended but optional and requires a fee in addition to the cost of the workshop. A discounted rate of \$25 is offered to anyone registered in this course. Companions must pay the regular rate of \$42. Deadline to ensure a seat for this tour is Sept. 23. NOTE: Participants must pay in advance for the tour. Please contact the tours office at [tours@ghostranch.org](mailto:tours@ghostranch.org) or purchase tickets online at <https://fareharbor.com/embeds/book/ghostranch/items/77536/availability/1700414326/book/?full-items=yes>.

**Q:** Can I buy art supplies at Ghost Ranch? **A:** No, the Ghost Ranch gift shop does not sell painting supplies, and there are no art supply stores in the area.

**Q:** What about Ghost Ranch lodging? **A:** Housing is first-come, first-booked. Call to book lodging: 505-685-4881 or 505-685-1019. Other contact information: <https://www.ghostranch.org/connect/contact-us/>. For a full experience, I suggest staying at Ghost Ranch, however there are other options, especially for those who must bring their dogs, which are not permitted at Ghost Ranch. The Abiquiu Inn is 15 miles away. Other places are available though VRBO and AirBnB.  
Note: If you are very lucky, you can book a room in the O'Keeffe casita, the small adobe where she first stayed at Ghost Ranch.

**Q:** How much time each day will be spent in the workshop? Will there be free time?  
**A:** A typical day will include 4.5 hours of organized activity (morning and evenings), with afternoons free. Participants can paint in their free time or take advantage of the many activities available at Ghost Ranch, including hiking, horse-back riding, archeology and history exhibits, a variety of tours, and more. The studio will be open all hours for those who want to paint in their free time.

**Q:** Will we be painting the same scenes as O'Keeffe and going to places where O'Keeffe painted? **A:** Ghost Ranch is the epicenter of the New Mexico landscape that O'Keeffe depicted. The subjects of her work surround us at Ghost Ranch. In addition, there is the optional Georgia O'Keeffe Landscape Tour to see specific sites and subjects that she painted (see details above).

**Q:** Did you help O’Keeffe with her painting? **A:** No, my duties were in the personal and domestic sphere. I was hired to stay with her Friday evenings to Monday mornings and was usually alone with her. I cooked her meals, ate with her, then cleaned up after. I drew her bath, washed her back, brushed her hair, helped her into bed, and read to her. I accompanied her on her daily walks, fed her dogs, and did anything that she requested. I worked for her from the summer 1976 to winter 1977. During that time, she turned 89 years old. She had macular degeneration and limited sight, but with the help of John Poling, she began painting again (see his book in the list below). I did not help her paint, but I did observe her studio, which gave me insight into how she worked.

**Q:** Where will we be meeting? **A:** The Art Center serves as our studio and classroom. There will be opportunities to work outdoors, to make studies and sketches for use in the studio, and paint in the open air. The Art Center is available all hours for those who want to use it.

**Q:** Will we be painting outdoors? Will we paint *en plein air*? **A:** This class is not about *plein air* style painting, which is characterized by loose brushwork, changing light, soft-focused forms, and impressionistic landscapes. My instruction, primarily in the studio, centers on O’Keeffe’s approach to painting. There will be opportunities to work outdoors.

**Q:** Will we tour O’Keeffe’s houses during the week? **A:** No, that is not part of our workshop. However, you can make plans on their own to visit O’Keeffe’s Abiquiu house: [www.okeeffemuseum.org/tickets-tours/](http://www.okeeffemuseum.org/tickets-tours/). Both of O’Keeffe’s houses are owned by the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum. If you want to visit, most of our afternoons are open for that or other free-time activities. Note: The Ghost Ranch Education & Retreat Center does not control O’Keeffe’s house on the seven acres carved out from the former dude ranch. That house is called Rancho de los Burros. The Georgia O’Keeffe Museum does not offer public tours of Rancho de los Burros. The Georgia O’Keeffe Landscape Tour (by van) stops on the road by Rancho de los Burros. That landscape tour is offered as a discounted, optional activity during this course.

**Q:** Will we visit the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum as part of the workshop? **A:** No. Visiting the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum before (or after) the workshop is recommended if you have the time. It is an hour’s drive to Santa Fe from Ghost Ranch; so if you have a private vehicle with you, it is possible to make an afternoon visit during our week together. Most afternoons are open for that or other free-time activities.

**Q:** Will Anna Koster talk about O’Keeffe and share stories about her? **A:** Yes. In addition to illustrated talks about the O’Keeffe’s life and work, I will share personal insights and answer questions.

**Q:** Can I extend my stay at Ghost Ranch beyond the workshop? **A:** You may be able to arrange an additional one- or two-night stay with Ghost Ranch staff: 505-685-4881 or 505-685-1019. You can also stay extra hours on the last day, after you clear your room for the 9 or 10 am check-out. You need to pay for additional meals if you want to eat lunch or dinner at Ghost Ranch on check-out day.

**Q:** How can I get to Ghost Ranch? **A:** Ghost Ranch provides travel information at <https://www.ghostranch.org/plan-your-visit/your-stay/travel/>.

**More workshop information is online at [annakoster.com/GR2025](http://annakoster.com/GR2025).**