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Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the Georgia O'Keeffe Writings and Other Papers

YCAL MSS 1381



by Michael L. Forstrom

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 1381

CREATOR: O'Keeffe, Georgia, 1887-1986, author

TITLE: Georgia O'Keeffe Writings and Other Papers

DATES: [1920?]-1982

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 5.34 linear feet (7 boxes + 1 broadside)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Collection of writings by Georgia O'Keeffe and other papers. Writings by O'Keeffe include drafts and other materials relating to her autobiographical book, *Georgia O'Keeffe* (New York: Viking Press, 1976), drafts and a galley proof for her "Introduction" to *Georgia O'Keeffe*, a portrait (New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1978), the catalog produced for the Metropolitan Museum of Art's exhibition of portraits of O'Keeffe by Stieglitz, and drafts for several shorter works. Other papers include an address book, one autograph letter from O'Keeffe to Juan Hamilton, a set of gelatin silver prints by Todd Webb of O'Keeffe paintings in a 1946 exhibition, material relating to Stieglitz, and a recipe card file.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.okeeffe>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.okeeffe>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

From the collection of Juan Hamilton. Purchased from Sotheby's sale, "Alfred Stieglitz, Georgia O'Keeffe, Juan Hamilton: Passage," March 2020 (lots 13, 45, 46, 53, 57, 62, 70, 74, 82, 84, 96, 100, 107) on the Ezra Pound Archive Fund and Donald Windham-Sandy Campbell Collection Endowment Fund, 2020.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Georgia O'Keeffe Writings and Other Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Georgia O'Keeffe Writings and Other Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986)

Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986) was an American painter and artist.

The "History of the Archive" note in the finding aid for the [Alfred Stieglitz / Georgia O'Keeffe Archive \(YCAL MSS 85\)](#) documents the custodial history of the bulk of O'Keeffe's papers and the construction of the Stieglitz / O'Keeffe archive circa 1949-1992.

Following Georgia O'Keeffe's death in 1986, materials in the Georgia O'Keeffe Writings and Other Papers (YCAL MSS 1381) were in the custody of Juan Hamilton until acquired by the library in 2020. Juan Hamilton is an American sculptor and painter who worked as an assistant to Georgia O'Keeffe from 1973 to 1986, during which time he became the executor and principal beneficiary of her estate. Following O'Keeffe's death, much of what was left to him was turned over to her family's estate and select materials remained in his possession.

Scope and Contents

Collection of writings by Georgia O'Keeffe and other papers. Writings by O'Keeffe include drafts and other materials relating to her autobiographical book, *Georgia O'Keeffe* (New York: Viking Press, 1976), drafts and a galley proof for her "Introduction" to *Georgia O'Keeffe*, a portrait (New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1978), the catalog produced for the Metropolitan Museum of Art's exhibition of portraits of O'Keeffe by Stieglitz, and drafts for several shorter works. Other papers include an address book, one autograph letter from O'Keeffe to Juan Hamilton, a set of gelatin silver prints by Todd Webb of O'Keeffe paintings in a 1946 exhibition, material relating to Stieglitz, and a recipe card file.

Arrangement

Organized into two series: I. Writings, 1970-1982. II. Other Papers, [1920?]-1970s.

Collection Contents

Series I: Writings, 1970–1982

3.25 linear feet (4 boxes + 1 broadside)

Series I. contains writings by Georgia O'Keeffe. The first subseries consists of drafts and other materials relating to an autobiographical project, identified here as "Book II," that culminated with the publication, *Georgia O'Keeffe* (New York: Viking Press, 1976). There are autograph manuscript drafts by O'Keeffe as well as typescript drafts, some corrected, and in some cases, handwritten transcriptions. The transcriptions, typescript drafts, and corrections appear to be the work of Virginia F. Robinson. Robinson's contribution is broadly acknowledged in a short November 2, 1974 statement by O'Keeffe (Box 1, folder 1 and Box 2, folder 13). Both Robinson and Juan Hamilton are acknowledged in the published version of the work.

In addition to the drafts and other materials for the autobiographical *Georgia O'Keeffe* project (1976), there are drafts for other shorter works by O'Keeffe in a second subseries for Other Writings. Many of these writings, based on similar handwriting and foolscrap folio paper, appear to date from the same general 1970s period, with a few files dating from 1978 to 1982. While it is possible some of these pieces were conceived as part of the autobiographical project, or considered for the Viking Press publication, they came to the library foldered separately and in separate envelopes, and they are arranged alphabetically by title in the Other Writings subseries.

Other Writings includes a typescript draft of an essay, "Events leading to lawsuit," in which O'Keeffe touches on contributions by Robinson and Hamilton to the 1976 Viking Press book before discussing, at greater length, the circumstances surrounding her suit against long-time associate, dealer, and executor Doris Bry. There are also drafts and a galley proof for O'Keeffe's "Introduction" to *Georgia O'Keeffe, a portrait* (New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1978), the catalog produced for the Metropolitan Museum of Art's exhibition of portraits of O'Keeffe by Alfred Stieglitz.

Some titles in Series I taken from typescript drafts, folders, or envelopes, likely provided by Robinson or Hamilton.

Organized into two subseries: *Georgia O'Keeffe* and Other Writings.

Georgia O'Keeffe

b. 1, f. 1	Statement by O'Keeffe regarding drafts of <i>Georgia O'Keeffe</i> , typescript, signed by O'Keeffe and Virginia F. Robertson (photocopy)	1974 November
b. 1, f. 2	"1st memories through high school (Chatham)," drafts, autograph manuscript and typescript, corrected	undated
b. 1, f. 3-6	"Book II - all versions," drafts, autograph manuscript and typescript, corrected	1974, undated
b. 1, f. 7	"Book II, Copy II," draft, typescript	undated
b. 6, f. 50	"Book II, Copy II" envelope	undated
b. 1, f. 8	"Book II, Copy III," draft, typescript (incomplete), corrected in an unidentified hand	undated
b. 2, f. 9	"Book II, Copy III," draft, typescript, corrected in an unidentified hand (photocopy)	undated
b. 6, f. 51	"Book II, Copy III" envelope	undated

Georgia O'Keeffe (continued)

b. 2, f. 10	Draft, typescript "xerox copy, Edith Asbusy," corrected	undated
b. 2, f. 11	Drafts "II Out," autograph manuscript and typescript, corrected and annotated in unidentified hands	1970, undated
b. 2, f. 12	Correspondence	1976
b. 2, f. 13	Production material	1974-1976, undated
Other Writings		
b. 2, f. 14	[Abstract paintings], drafts, autograph manuscript and typescript, with transcriptions in an unidentified hand	undated
b. 2, f. 15	"Book I," drafts, [early versions], autograph manuscript, typescript, and typescript carbon, corrected	undated
b. 2, f. 16	"Events leading to lawsuit," draft, typescript and autograph manuscript, with transcription in an unidentified hand	undated
b. 2, f. 17-21	<i>Georgia O'Keeffe, a portrait</i> , "Introduction," drafts, autograph manuscript and typescript	circa 1970s
b. 6, f. 52	<i>Georgia O'Keeffe, a portrait</i> , "Introduction," drafts, autograph manuscript and typescript	undated
b. 3, f. 22-23	<i>Georgia O'Keeffe, a portrait</i> , "Introduction," drafts, autograph manuscript and typescript	circa 1970s
b. 7 (Broadside)	<i>Georgia O'Keeffe, a portrait</i> , "Introduction," galley proof	circa 1978
b. 3, f. 24	"Ghost ranch," drafts, autograph manuscript and typescript, with transcription in an unidentified hand	1980, undated
b. 6, f. 53	"Girards - Morocco," draft, autograph manuscript	undated
b. 3, f. 25	"Girards - Morocco," draft, typescript, corrected in an unidentified hand (2 copies)	undated
b. 3, f. 26	"Gymnasium," drafts, autograph manuscript and typescript, with transcription in an unidentified hand	undated
b. 3, f. 27-29	"House," drafts, autograph manuscript and typescript, corrected and annotated in an unidentified hand	undated
b. 3, f. 30	"Joey Hirshhorn," drafts, autograph manuscript and typescript, with autograph transcription in an unidentified hand	undated
b. 3, f. 31	"Juan - about pots," drafts, autograph manuscript and typescript	undated
b. 3, f. 32	"Material not used in either Book I or Book II," drafts, autograph manuscript and typescript, corrected in an unidentified hand	undated
b. 6, f. 54	Untitled draft, autograph manuscript, removed from "Material not used in either Book I or Book II"	undated
b. 3, f. 33	"My eyes and painting," drafts, autograph manuscript and typescript, with transcription in an unidentified hand	undated

Other Writings (continued)

b. 3, f. 34	"Necklace," drafts, autograph manuscript and typescript, corrected in an unidentified hand	undated
b. 3, f. 35	"Original dog writing," drafts, autograph manuscript	undated
b. 4, f. 36-37	"Richard," drafts, autograph manuscript and typescript, corrected in an unidentified hand	undated
b. 4, f. 38	"Shells," drafts, autograph manuscript and typescript, corrected in an unidentified hand	undated
b. 4, f. 39	Untitled, draft fragments, autograph manuscript and typescript, with transcriptions in an unidentified hand	1982, undated

Series II: Other Papers, [1920?]-1970s*2.09 linear feet (3 boxes)*

Series II. Other Papers contains other, miscellaneous, material relating to O'Keeffe dating circa 1920 through the 1970s. Papers include an address book, an undated autograph letter from O'Keeffe to Juan Hamilton, material relating to Stieglitz, a set of 23 gelatin silver prints by Todd Webb of O'Keeffe paintings in a 1946 exhibition at The American Place, and a recipe card file. The recipe card file consists of over 200 recipes either written by hand, typed out, or on clippings.

Arranged alphabetically by material type and heading.

b. 4, f. 40	Address book	circa 1926-1927
b. 4, f. 41	Loose material removed from address book Includes two photographs of unidentified man	undated
b. 4, f. 42	Box list of contents	undated
b. 4, f. 43	"Catalogue of Stieglitz exhibition of paintings - etc.," notes, autograph manuscript, undated with transcription in an unidentified hand	undated
b. 4, f. 44	Letter, autograph, initialed, from O'Keeffe to Juan [Hamilton]	undated
b. 4, f. 45	Material relating to "Stieglitz about a print"	undated
b. 8, f. 56	"O'Keeffe show at The American Place - Feb 4 - Mar 27 - 46" Includes 23 gelatin silver prints by Todd Webb of artwork by O'Keeffe	1946 March
b. 4, f. 46	Photograph of "Banana flower no. 1" by Oliver Baker Gelatin silver print of 1933 charcoal drawing by O'Keeffe	circa 1960
b. 4, f. 47	Printed ephemera	[1920?]-1943
b. 5, f. 49	Recipe card file	circa 1950s-1970s
b. 6, f. 55	Clipping removed from Recipe card file	1971 April
b. 4, f. 48	Printed ephemera removed from Recipe card file	1940, undated

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Art, Modern -- 20th Century
Art, Modern -- 20th Century -- Exhibitions
Painters -- United States
Photographers

Genres / Formats

Gelatin silver prints
Paintings (visual works)
Photographic prints

Names

O'Keeffe, Georgia, 1887-1986
Stieglitz, Alfred, 1864-1946
Webb, Todd

Corporate Bodies

Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, N.Y.)
Viking Press