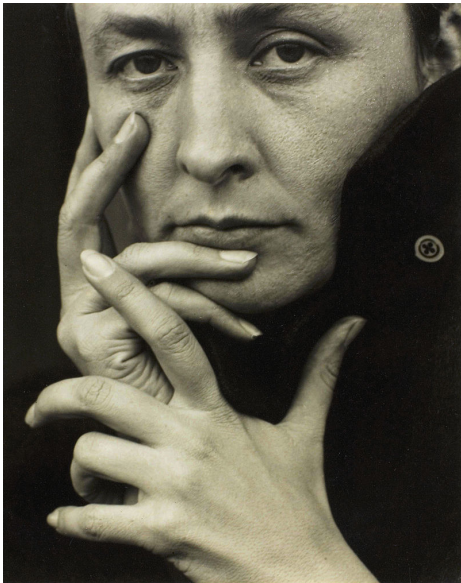




January 2019 Her Story ENewsletter Women, Art and Museums

Women artists, like women in every endeavor, have been overlooked throughout history. In this month's ENewsletter we feature two women whose contributions to the arts and culture are enduring: Georgia O'Keeffe and Wilhemina Holladay, both of whom have been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

The "Mother of American modernism" artist Georgia O'Keeffe is famously remembered for her paintings of large flowers and depictions of landscapes - particularly those of New Mexico and New York City. O'Keeffe felt constrained during her initial years of art education but during her summer art studies between her years of teaching, she began to develop her own personal style. By 1915, that style was emerging and her first solo commercial exhibition was held in New York City in 1917. In 1929, she began spending part of her year in the Southwest and painting evocations of that area. After her husband died, she lived permanently in New Mexico.



Georgia O'Keeffe

Today, the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe, New Mexico exhibits her artwork, maintains her two homes in New Mexico, and operates a research center and library. O'Keeffe lived in her Abiquiu, New Mexico home and studio in the winter and spring through 1984. She lived at the Ghost Ranch property, also near Abiquiu, New Mexico, in the summer and fall. The Museum honors her legacy of painting what she called "the wideness and wonder of the world as I live in it." O'Keeffe was honored on a U.S. postage stamp in 1996.



Wilhemina Cole Holladay

Wilhemina Cole Holladay and her husband began collecting art in the 1960s at a time when the under representation of women in history - and in art - became a topic of discussion. Her interest was triggered by the discovery of artist Clara Peeters, a Dutch woman who pioneered in the area of still-life painting and who was active at the same time as Rembrandt. Peeters, however, was not listed in the catalogs and, for all intents and purposes, had been forgotten. Holladay found that other women artists were also not in the catalogs and that museums had very few exhibitions featuring women artists.

For twenty years, the pair collected art by women around the world. By 1980, Holladay had begun her crusade to establish a museum to house the art with the Holladay collection as its core. From docent-led tours of the Holladay's collection still in their home in 1981, to a physical reality that opened in 1987 in Washington, DC, Holladay's dream was realized with the National Museum of Women in the Arts, which boasts a huge membership around the world. Holladay says "when substantial accomplishments and excellence are known, the right to be taken seriously surely will follow. Women should know their heritage which has been so long ignored."

Georgia O'Keefe and Wilhemina Holiday are among the more than 850 women profiled in our book *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America*. Women's accomplishments continue to inspire and encourage us. Continue to help us tell women's stories!

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