From New York to New Mexico: Masterworks of American Modernism from the Vilcek Foundation Collection Opens September 25, 2015 at the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum

The Vilcek Collection features more than 60 masterworks of American modernism from early 1910 through the Post-war era, many on view for the first time in Santa Fe

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 15, 2015—Santa Fe, New Mexico—The Georgia O’Keeffe Museum reveals its latest exhibition From New York to New Mexico: Masterworks of American Modernism from the Vilcek Foundation Collection, an exhibition organized by Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa Oklahoma in cooperation with The Vilcek Foundation New York, opening Friday, September 25th, 2015. With more than 60 works, the exhibition represents one of the country’s finest collections of American modernism from the period 1910’s to the Post-war era.

Organized by the Chief Curator and Curator of American Art at the Philbrook Museum, Catherine Whitney, in cooperation with The Vilcek Foundation, New York City, this is the first time many of these noted Modernist works have been accessible to the public. Jan and Marica Vilcek, both immigrants to the United States from former Czechoslovakia, became interested in American modernism due in part to Marica’s art history career at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Dr. Jan Vilcek’s interest in collecting, and a shared desire to give back to the country that gave them so much as new immigrants.

The Vilcek Collection reunites three of four important still lifes by Stuart Davis—painted in 1922. The painter was responsible for the Vilcek’s initial foray into American modernism; when in 1990, they purchased a work by Davis entitled Tree (1921) on a trip to Santa Fe, New Mexico. The Vilceks credit this acquisition with their “firm, yet not always easy,” commitment to Modernism.
The exhibition, which comprises paintings, sculptures and works-on-paper divides the collection into four parts. The first section, “Nature” includes the work of Georgia O’Keeffe, Marsden Hartley, Arthur Dove and Max Weber — the first generation of abstract artists to translate the transcendent qualities of nature into metaphors of color, geometry and line.

The second section of the exhibition, “Cubism” explores the aesthetics and philosophical constructs of Cubism as applied to American subjects. Highlights include the aforementioned Stuart Davis still lifes: Still Life with Dial, Still Life, Brown, and Still Life, Red, which the artist described as “rigorously...American.”

“Town and Country” the exhibition’s third section, examines modernist views of structure, industrialization and architecture. Rockefeller Center (1939) by painter Ralston Crawford evidences the construction of Rockefeller Center in New York City.

Finally “The Southwest” recognizes the importance of this region as the inspiration for many of the artworks in the collection. Nearly one third of the Vilcek collection’s paintings were painted in New Mexico. In the period after World War I, many New York artists spent time in New Mexico experiencing the landscape, investigating spiritualism, and taking up residence at the Mabel Dodge Luhan art and writer’s colony in Taos.

*From New York to New Mexico: Masterworks from the Vilcek Foundation Collection* captures the unique perspectives of the American modernism movement and provides insight into a group of artists defining American abstraction.

“The Vilcek Collection is one of the finest collections of American modernism ever gathered. It explores the emergence of America’s first truly homegrown, avant-garde art movement. We are pleased to feature this important exhibition that explores a generation of abstract artists who truly made the 20th century an American century,” said Cody Hartley, Director of Curatorial Affairs at the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum.

*From New York to New Mexico: Masterworks from the Vilcek Foundation Collection* is on view through January 10, 2016 at the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum. Also on view from September 25, 2015 to January 10, 2016, the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum is pleased to present David Bradley After Georgia O’Keeffe. Rife with sly references to O’Keeffe’s art and life, David Bradley’s painting O’Keeffe, after Whistler (2007) visits from the Denver Art Museum, to be shown with works from our collection that inspired this ironic homage.

The neighboring New Mexico Museum of Art celebrates: *The Fall of Modernism: A Season of American Art*, supported by two exhibitions. The New Mexico Museum of Art

The Museum partnership offers joint ticketing, allowing visitors to see both exhibitions for a single price.

**Tickets**
- Out-of-state visitors: $18
- New Mexico residents: $12
- Museums Members of each respective museum: FREE

**Museum Members**
- Museum members can visit the partner museum for a reduced rate:
- In-state O’Keeffe Museum members can visit the Museum of Art for $5; Out-of-state Museum members for $8
- Foundation members can visit the O’Keeffe: $7; Out-of-state members for $10
- In addition, joint ticket holders will receive a 10% discount in each museum store.

Tickets can be purchased at either the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum or the New Mexico Museum of Art.

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**About Georgia O’Keeffe Museum:**
To inspire all current and future generations, the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum preserves, presents and advances the artistic legacy of Georgia O’Keeffe and modernism through innovative public engagement, education, and research. Opened in Santa Fe, New Mexico in 1997, the Museum counts O’Keeffe’s two New Mexico homes as part of its extended collection. The Museum’s collections, exhibitions, research center, publications and educational programs contribute to scholarly discourse and serve a diverse audience. For more information, please visit okeeffemuseum.org.
### About the Vilcek Collection:
The Vilcek Foundation aims to raise public awareness of the contributions of immigrants to the sciences, arts, and culture in the United States. The Foundation was established in 2000 by Jan and Marica Vilcek, immigrants from former Czechoslovakia. The mission of the Foundation was inspired by the couple’s respective careers in biomedical science and art history, as well as the personal experiences and appreciation for the opportunities offered to them as newcomers to the United States. The Foundation achieves its mission through hosting immigrant artists and performers at their gallery space in New York City, awarding the annual Vilcek Prizes in the biomedical sciences, arts and humanities, and sponsoring programs such as the Hawaii International Film Festival. For additional information, visit vilcek.org.

### About the Fall of Modernism:
The Fall of Modernism is a citywide collaboration that runs from September 11, 2015 through January 17, 2016, that celebrates the Modernist art movement. It is anchored by the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum and its exhibition, From New York to New Mexico: Masterworks of American Modernism from the Vilcek Foundation Collection, along with the New Mexico Museum of Art’s exhibition, Georgia O’Keeffe in Process. Numerous art galleries in Santa Fe will showcase Modernist art with exhibitions, programming, and events. falloffmodernism.org