The Other American Moderns
 Wins the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum Book Prize
Book by art historian focuses on four American artists of Japanese descent

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—December 5, 2018 (Santa Fe, NM) — The Georgia O’Keeffe Museum is pleased to announce that a book by art historian ShiPu Wang, The Other American Moderns. Matsura, Ishigaki, Noda, Hayakawa, is the winner of the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum 2018 Museum Book Prize. Given every three years, the Book Prize honors the author of a book that influences ideas about American Modernism, a key cultural movement in the early 20th century that shaped art, philosophy, and style. Georgia O’Keeffe was a notable American Modernist painter.

In The Other American Moderns, the author takes a close look at the creations of four 20th century American artists of Japanese descent: Frank Matsura, Eitarō Ishigaki, Hideo Noda, and Miki Hayakawa. Wang explores their contributions to American culture and the idea of “Americanness.”

“This is a beautifully written book,” says Cody Hartley, the O’Keeffe Museum’s Senior Director, Collections and Interpretation. “It is original and expansive in its approach, highlights four excellent artists, and tells broader and more nuanced stories of identity, and multicultural experiences in the United States. All of us at the O’Keeffe are happy to make it this year’s winner.”

Wang is the Professor of Art History and the Coats Family Chair in the Arts at the University of California, Merced. He specializes in pre-WWII American art and visual culture produced by diasporic artists of Asian descent. Through research and engaging storytelling, The Other American Moderns encourages a greater understanding of recent art history. An external jury of distinguished art scholars selected The Other American Moderns out of more than a dozen nominees. They chose the book for its impact on scholarship and cultural interest, as well as its accessible style.

The O’Keeffe Book Prize comes with an award of $5,000. A celebration and related public programming will feature at the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum in spring of 2019.

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ABOUT SHIPU WANG: ShiPu Wang, Professor of Art History and the Coats Family Chair in the Arts at the University of California, Merced, is an art historian specializing in pre-WWII American art and visual culture produced by diasporic artists of Asian descent. A 2014 Terra Foundation for American Art Senior Fellow at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, he received the museum’s 2008 Patricia and Phillip Frost Essay Award for his essay in American Art. Wang has authored three books: Becoming American? The Art and Identity Crisis of Yasuo Kuniyoshi (2011); The Other American Moderns. Matsura, Ishigaki, Noda, Hayakawa (2017); and Chiura Obata: An American Modern (2018)—an exhibition catalog accompanying a retrospective of the same name, curated by Wang.

ABOUT THE OTHER AMERICAN MODERNS. MATSURA, ISHIGAKI, NODA, HAYAKAWA (from www.psupress.org): In The Other American Moderns, ShiPu Wang analyzes the works of…Frank Matsura, Eitarō Ishigaki, Hideo Noda, and Miki Hayakawa…The Other American Moderns …reconceives American modernism by illuminating these artists’ active role in the shaping of a multicultural and cosmopolitan culture. This nuanced analysis of their deliberate engagement with the ideological complexities of American identity contributes a new vision to our understanding of non-European identity in modernism and American art.

ABOUT THE 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. The Georgia O’Keeffe Museum presents an ongoing series of thematic galleries exploring the career of the artist through her artwork, art materials, archives, and the landscapes and experiences that defined her life, on view throughout 2018. For more information, please visit okeeffemuseum.org.