

Georgia O'Keeffe Museum

Georgia O'Keeffe's Dazzling *Ritz Tower* Joins Museum's Collection

The dynamic 1928 oil painting is the newest addition to the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum's collection.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—January 28, 2019 (Santa Fe, NM)—The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum is excited to announce the newest addition to its permanent collection, Georgia O'Keeffe's 1928 oil painting, *Ritz Tower*. Created during her rise to art world stardom, the work captures the iconic building at night. The slender painting is one of O'Keeffe's rare depictions of skyscrapers in New York City.



"This is a painting as dazzling as the modern city itself," says Ariel Plotek, Curator of Fine Art for the O'Keeffe Museum. Throughout the 1920s, Georgia O'Keeffe lived in New York with her husband, photographer and art impresario Alfred Stieglitz. The couple was at the center of the city's cultural scene, with O'Keeffe's exhibitions receiving critical acclaim. Some of her peers initially discouraged her from painting urban subjects. Later in life, O'Keeffe recalled, "The men decided they didn't want me to paint New York . . . They told me to 'leave New York to the men.' I was furious!" One of the most striking examples of her rebuttals is *Ritz Tower*.

"It is a dynamic, glamorous portrayal," says Plotek. "O'Keeffe effectively rendered the spirit of the city by making it a night scene teeming with energy. She used the bright punches of electric light, the soaring architecture, and the glow of the moon to great effect."



The Museum acquired the painting through the Owings Gallery in Santa Fe, New Mexico. "We're thrilled to have this important painting at the O'Keeffe," says Plotek. "It helps us tell a critical part of O'Keeffe's story: art darling of the 'Roaring Twenties.' We know our visitors will love *Ritz Tower* as much as we do."

Ritz Tower will be on view in the Museum's galleries, beginning on March 1, 2019. A special Museum members-only preview event celebrating *Ritz Tower* will take place at the Museum on Thursday, February 28, 2019. For more details about membership, click here:

<https://www.okeeffemuseum.org/store/products/connect/membership/>.

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Image credits: Georgia O'Keeffe. *Ritz Tower*, 1928. Oil on canvas, 40 1/4 x 14 in. Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. Museum Purchase. © Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. [2018.14.1]

Alfred Stieglitz. *Georgia O'Keeffe*, 1920 / 1922. Gelatin silver print. Museum Art Collection. Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. Gift of The Georgia O'Keeffe Foundation.

Supplemental materials: Two (2) provided images, represented above

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 2019. For more information, please visit okeeffemuseum.org.