

# Lost O'Keeffe work displayed at college

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — Georgia O'Keeffe's bold landscapes and paintings of animal bones identify her so strongly with New Mexico that her adolescent years in Virginia tend to get overlooked.

Also largely forgotten is a 1938 exhibition — her first solo show in the South — at the College of William and Mary, where the artist returned to accept her first honorary degree.

The university re-creates that "lost" exhibition with "Georgia O'Keeffe in Williamsburg: A Re-Creation of the Artist's First Public Exhibition in the South." The show opens Saturday at the college's Muscarelle Museum of Art.

The show also will include recently discovered O'Keeffe letters, other historical documents and a 6-and-a-half-minute home movie, never before viewed publicly, showing O'Keeffe on campus to receive the degree.

"To be able to add something to the biography of an American icon, I think, is significant," said Bonnie G. Kelm, director of the Muscarelle and associate professor of art and art history.

The original exhibition was important because O'Keeffe and her husband, art dealer and photographer Alfred Stieglitz, selected eight paintings representing her work during the previous 10 years, when O'Keeffe reached maturity and fame, Kelm said.

"I am glad that you will have the paintings to speak for me," O'Keeffe wrote in a letter to then-college President John Stewart Bryan. The artist disliked public speaking and did not make a speech during the graduation ceremony.

The ninth painting in the show was 1932's "White Flower,"

which Abby Rockefeller donated to the school in honor of O'Keeffe's degree.

The Rockefeller family was restoring Colonial Williamsburg at the time.

The show was never reviewed, likely because it lasted just six days.

Only a picture of O'Keeffe in her cap and gown appeared in The New York Times. Re-creating the show is an opportunity to document it properly, Kelm said.

The works — flower paintings, a view of New York City, southwestern landscapes and a bone painting — include some real gems, said Lynn Marsden-Atlas, curator of American and contemporary art at the Chrysler Museum of Art in Norfolk.

"What you've got is a small exhibition but a beautiful cross section of the work she was doing at the time," Marsden-Atlas said. "Each piece is in and of itself exquisitely beautiful."

Officials hit upon re-creating the 1938 exhibition when Ann C. Madonia, curator of collections, did some research in the university's Swem Library archives.

That exhibition was briefly mentioned in some O'Keeffe biographies, but there was no information about what was in it, how long it was or who organized it.

Madonia was able to fill in some gaps when she uncovered correspondence between O'Keeffe and Bryan, and letters from Leslie Cheek Jr., chairman of the art department, to O'Keeffe and Stieglitz.

Madonia also found a handwritten inventory of the paintings that had been in the 1938 show. Barbara Buhler Lynes, director of the Georgia O'Keeffe Research Institute and curator of collections at the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe, N.M., identified the handwrit-

*"It will be lovely to see the Williamsburg country again with the spring leaves. I must assure you that I never even imagined ever going there or any other place for an honorary degree. It is quite outside my usual way of thinking so it is very much a surprise to me. A pleasant surprise."*

Georgia O'Keeffe

In a letter to her former college William and Mary

ing as that of Stieglitz.

Lynes helped the Muscarelle identify and track down the eight paintings, seven of which have been borrowed from private collectors and other museums for the re-created exhibition. One painting, "Yellow Hickory Leaves With Daisy," will be represented by a photo because it is too fragile to travel.

For the re-creation, the walls in the display area will be painted bluish white and trimmed in silver gray, as O'Keeffe had specified, according to a news release written at the time.

Kelm and Madonia say they hope the exhibition will dispel myths concerning O'Keeffe, including the notion that she supposedly was aloof and did not care about the degree. The home movie, which Lynes obtained from the O'Keeffe family, shows a smiling, waving O'Keeffe.

"Later on, everyone remembers her being very severe, but this is very obviously a joyous occasion," Madonia says.

O'Keeffe's family moved to Williamsburg from Sun Prairie, Wis., in 1902, when her father read promotional literature claiming that Williamsburg was free from tuberculosis. She finished her senior year of high school, then joined her family in Williamsburg in 1903. Her two brothers attended William and Mary, which only admitted male

students at the time.

O'Keeffe attended the Art Institute of Chicago in 1905 but left after a year. She returned to Williamsburg, contracted typhoid fever in 1906 and spent most of the year at home, recovering.

She went to New York City in 1907 to study at the Art Students League but was in Williamsburg during half of 1908 because her mother was sick. In 1909, the family moved to Charlottesville.

O'Keeffe later moved to New York and to a ranch in New Mexico.

By the 1930s, O'Keeffe generally was acknowledged as one of the country's leading artists. In recognition of her achievements, William and Mary conferred upon her its first honorary degree in fine arts.

"It will be lovely to see the Williamsburg country again with the spring leaves," O'Keeffe wrote to the college president on March 26, 1938. "I must assure you that I never even imagined ever going there or any other place for an honorary degree. It is quite outside my usual way of thinking so it is very much a surprise to me. A pleasant surprise."

O'Keeffe died in 1986 at age 98.

The exhibition will remain at the Muscarelle until May 27, then travel to the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe.

# 'Sugar and Spice' works as light fare

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Mellenkamp's '80s hit song, this is one of the most loving and ignorant couples in movie history, mostly because of Jack's naiveté. They are left without any help from their families, and are quickly falling into the depths of poverty. To try to help out, Diane gets a job at the local supermarket bank, then decides to rob it with the help of her best pals.

Shelton plays a sweet, innocent dream queen who turns into a conniving go-getter for the sake of her to-be family. Shelton has the talent of good comic timing, and becomes the character of a girl who loves everything about high school and will do anything for love.

Mena Suvari, from "American Pie" and "American Beauty," plays a Kansas girl grown from the cream of the crop of dysfunctional families. Though her part is rather small, her involvement is significant for the heist to be a success. Plus, every movie needs a bad girl.

James Marsden, who plays Jack, pops up a few times in the movie, but is evidently better talked about than heard from. Marsden plays the village idiot goof very well; so well, in fact, that if he were in "Sugar & Spice" any more than what was allotted, it would have been too painful to watch.

Marla Sokoloff, who is best known as the secretary on the TV series "The Practice," plays a snotty jealous B-squad cheer-

leader who is urging to get the girls into trouble with the law while earning a seat on the A squad. She narrates the movie from the beginning and is quite fake as an actor. She tries too hard, and the end result is a weak performance.

Mandy Nelson's writing of childish hijinks, stupid humor and ironic puns thrives the comedy. The idea is simple and illogical: It is almost like a fairy tale of trailer trash sorts.

It is a silly story, and the viewer should know that going into the theater. You can not expect more than that. The girls have their cat-fights and make up to be best friends again. They are constantly wearing their cheerleading uniforms and treat their lives as if there are no true dangerous consequences to their actions. Hey, that is life in MTV.

Stupid humor can go a long way. The gas jokes, sex jokes and poor, dirty people get the riot laughs. There is nothing wrong with that, especially since the movie is about cheap shots that will produce shallow humor.

"Sugar & Spice" is by no means a great critical movie, but it will make you laugh. Amusement is what the film is throwing out, so do not expect a lot; it's just for fun.

"Sugar & Spice." Starring Marley Shelton, Mena Suvari, James Marsden and Marla Sokoloff. Directed by Francine Mc Dougall. Rated PG-13 (adult language and adult content). Playing at the Plaza 4.

# Anniversary of 'Catcher' to remain unpublicized

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This year marks the 50th anniversary of J.D. Salinger's "The Catcher in the Rye." But don't expect to hear that from his publisher.

A paperback edition just released makes no reference to the anniversary. There will be no official readings, no panel discussions, not even a press release. You will be lucky to get Little, Brown and Co., a division of AOL Time Warner Inc., to even mention it.

The obvious, unstated reason

is Salinger himself. He cannot bear to have others talk about him.

"No comment," said Terry Adams, vice president and director of trade paperback for Little, Brown, when asked why there would be no publicity.

Adams has good reason to be careful. Not only is the 82-year-old author famous for avoiding the press, he has a history of stopping others from discussing him:

In 1982, Salinger sued a man who allegedly tried to sell a fictitious interview with the author to

a magazine. The man agreed to desist.

Five years later, another Salinger legal action resulted in an important decision by the U.S. Supreme Court. The high court refused to allow publication of Ian Hamilton's unauthorized biography of Salinger that quoted from the author's unpublished letters.

Salinger had copyrighted them when he learned what the book was to include.

In 1991, Brandeis University announced Salinger had been selected for one of nine arts

awards it was giving out. But then Brandeis withdrew the award, saying Salinger thought it focused unwanted attention on him and might lead people to think he would show up for the ceremony.

In 1996, his agents pursued the author of a Web site devoted to Salinger, and it was taken down.

"I have no comment," his agent, Phyllis Westberg, said Thursday when asked how, or whether, Salinger would want the anniversary of "Catcher" to be observed. "I don't answer questions about him."



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