

Painting and Hiking with Georgia O'Keeffe

In Northern New Mexico

Dates: Sunday August 21, 2011 – Saturday August 27, 2011

Leaders: Kathy Skura, MFA, and Barry Skura, Ph.D.

Costs: \$779 with a double occupancy room. \$995 with a single occupancy room. Package includes workshop tuition, accommodations for 6 nights (7 days), 6 gourmet breakfasts, 5 bag lunches, 1 on-site hot lunch, easels, tour of O'Keeffe's home and tour of Taos Pueblo.

Art Supply Charge (optional): \$35 If you select this option, all necessary art supplies will be provided, including canvases, good brushes, easels, palettes, acrylic paints, oil paints and pastels

For More Information: Contact Barry or Kathy Skura at 914-779-0936 or via e-mail at BSkura@optonline.net. You can also visit Barry and Kathy's web site, www.hikingandart.org

Reservations: Charles or Pam of San Geronimo Lodge at 575-751-3776

Thank you for your interest in our workshop, "Painting and Hiking with Georgia O'Keeffe in Northern New Mexico." We will be based at the historic San Geronimo Lodge in Taos. Barry and Kathy will lead moderate hikes of one to six miles to sketching and painting locations in and around the Taos area. There will also be a trip to Ghost Ranch and to O'Keeffe's home and studio in Abiquiu. Kathy will provide instruction in painting, sketching and photo composition, assisted by our San Geronimo host, Charles Montgomery.

This is Georgia O'Keeffe country. O'Keeffe spent a considerable amount of time in Taos and her history is interwoven with the art history of Taos. O'Keeffe was captivated by the northern New Mexico landscape. "The color! The Color!" she exclaimed upon first seeing the bright rocks and clear air of the region.

During this workshop, you will learn about Georgia O'Keeffe's life and art. You will also have a chance to develop your own artistic vision by walking, sketching and painting the landscape that inspired her so much. We think that you will agree that Northern New Mexico has some of the most spectacular landscapes in the world. Depending on your interests and background, you may work independently or receive basic as well as more advanced instruction.

Our itinerary will vary from day to day. The basic plan is to hike to a scenic

location after breakfast, carrying light weight portable easels, art supplies, and lunch. We will spend several hours at our destination learning art techniques, sketching, taking photos, or painting. On-site instruction will be different for participants who are at different levels or have different goals. Participants may also work independently. The average hikes will be 2 – 4 miles, round trip. On some days, those who wish to hike a little further will be able to join Barry on an optional side trip.

When we return to the lodge, there will be time to reflect and relax – swimming in the lodge pool, walking the meditation path, sharing experiences, as well as visiting local points of interest. In the evening, we will offer other activities, including talks on Georgia O’Keeffe’s life and painting style, discussions on the nature of creativity, or a sunset walk.

The workshop is open artists at all levels -- both the developing artist who wishes to work independently and the novice who is looking for instruction in basic techniques. We also welcome those who simply want to increase their appreciation of fine art, or are primarily interested in photography.

We will be staying at the AAA-rated 3-Diamond San Geronimo Lodge, an historic, adobe Bed and Breakfast with studio space, Wi-Fi, pool and hot tub. The address is 1101 Witt Road, Taos, New Mexico. Pictures of the lodge can be found at www.sangeronimolodge.com

ITINERARY

Sunday Aug 21

3: 00 Check in at San Geronimo Lodge in Taos.

6: 00 Meet & Greet. Wine and Cheese in San Geronimo living room. Share artistic visions. Slide show. Group dinner.

Monday Aug 22

Two hour round trip hike to a breathtaking viewpoint near Pilar (the hike will take us past several petroglyphs). We will then drive to the nearby Rio Grande River to have lunch and paint the river and canyon. Optional swim. On the way back to the lodge, we will briefly visit the St. Francis of Assisi Church. With its distinctive lines and shape, it was one of O’Keeffe’s favorite subjects,

Evening: Painting instruction.

Tuesday Aug 23

Drive across the John Dunn Bridge. Short walk to the river and natural hot

springs. Take a dip and/or paint the cliffs. Afterward, you will have the option of returning to the lodge, visiting town or the nearby Millicent Rogers Museum with its outstanding collection of Native American arts and crafts.

Evening: Talk/ slide show on Georgia O’Keeffe.

Wednesday Aug 24

Car pool to Ghost Ranch, the setting of many of O’Keeffe paintings. With its red clay and spectacular views, Ghost Ranch is on one of most distinctive landscapes in the country. 2 hour round trip hike of Chimney Rock. Afterwards, tour O’Keeffe home and studio in nearby Abiqui. Time permitting, visit the “White Place” one of O’Keeffe’s favorite subjects.

Evening: Painting Instruction.

Thursday Aug 25

Studio day at San Geronimo Lodge, with its great views of Taos Mountain. Get additional instruction and paint the mountain, or tour the town of Taos. Take a break to swim in the pool, nap or walk the lodge’s labyrinth and/or prayer path. Hot on-site lunch.

For those who wish to hike on Thursday morning, there will be an optional hike to Divisadero Peak (10 – 15 minute drive from the lodge). Divisadero Peak has a panoramic view of Taos. This hike can be either a 30 minute walk to a major viewpoint or a 6 mile circular, depending on interest.

Evening: Informal discussion of experiences so far. Optional sunset walk over the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge, with a magnificent view into the gorge.

Friday Aug 26 Now that you are acclimated to Taos at 7,000 feet elevation, we will hike a 5 mile round trip to spectacular Williams Lake, which sits in an 11,200 feet high glacial cirque below Wheeler Peak. After hiking the gradual 2 ½ mile trail to the lake, we will remain there most of the day painting or sketching.

Evening: Exhibit of paintings, sketches and photos from the trip. Individual and group critiques.

Saturday Aug 27 Put your boots and paints away and get out your camera. Visit Taos Pueblo. After 1000 years, it is one of the oldest continuously inhabited Native American communities. Tour the pueblo’s multi-storied adobe buildings. Paintings and crafts are available for purchase.

Check out of the Lodge by 1:00 pm.

LEADERS

Barry and Kathy Skura (914-779-0936, Bskura@optonline.net).

Kathy is a visual artist who has taught art for over 30 years – for the last 17 years, at a residential school in Dobbs Ferry, New York. She has a BFA from Boston University and a MFA from the State University of New York. Kathy has been inspired by the landscape of the Southwest and is currently working on a series of paintings which interpret the texture, color and pattern of rock formations. She has had 20 exhibits throughout the New York – New Jersey area.

Barry has almost 20 years experience leading wilderness hiking and camping trips for national hiking clubs, including the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) and the Sierra Club. He has chaired the Backpacking Committee of AMC's New York- Northern New Jersey Chapter and has served on the Chapter's Executive Committee.

Kathy and Barry are both active hikers. They have found hiking to be a source of artistic inspiration and feel that being in nature allows one to escape the pettiness of everyday life. Facilitating connection with one's creative self, the act of walking helps us empty our mind of extraneous things and opens us to artistic possibilities.

They are both are certified in Wilderness First Aid.

MATERIALS

Art Materials Bring a sketch book and camera for use while hiking.

For a \$35 optional fee, we will provide all other necessary art supplies, including canvasses, good brushes, easels, palettes, acrylic paints, oil paints and pastels.

The supply fee is optional – you can bring your own supplies. However, for most people, it would make the most sense to pay the \$35 fee and not bother buying/ shipping/ carrying their own supplies. One reason is that the fee gets you several different mediums with which to experiment without the expense of buying all the different mediums yourself. Another reason is that, during the hikes, you will have less weight to carry – the group supplies will be distributed among different group members, so no one has to carry everything themselves. You will also save the trouble of carrying supplies on your flight and being hassled by airline security. Finally, in the past, we found that beginners sometimes waste money buying more supplies than they need or the wrong kind. This avoids that problem.

Hiking equipment and clothing Bring comfortable broken-in hiking boots (light hiking boots are OK), a wide brim hat, a waterproof wind breaker, loose fitting casual

clothes you can layer, containers to carry at least two liters of water, and a small day pack for carrying these items, plus lunch, sketch pad and camera. Bring rain gear because of the possibility of sudden thunderstorms.

It is also very important to bring sun screen. For additional protection against the sun, bring a long-sleeved, lightweight, light colored shirt with color

The best protection against blisters is a combination of two non-cotton socks – a thin inner sock (polypro, silk, etc) and a thicker wool or synthetic outer sock for cushioning. This combination helps prevent blisters by wicking moisture away from your foot. Some people also like to use hiking sticks.

We do not assume that you have any hiking experience. However, the more general exercise you can get prior to the trip, the more you will enjoy it. Walking is a great way to prepare.

WEATHER AND ALTITUDE

Taos is at an altitude of almost 7,000 feet. In the Taos ski valley, where we may hike later in the week, the altitude is 9200. The trip plan takes into account that most participants are coming from other locations and need to acclimatize – e.g., little climbing, especially the first two days

Due to the altitude, it is critical that you drink a lot of water. So do not forget containers for carrying at least two liters of water on each hike. You will also be more exposed to the sun, so it is important to have hat with a brim and plenty of sun screen. On our end, we will take it extra easy the first two days and encourage you to get plenty of rest.

Summer days in Taos are dry and sunny, except for frequent afternoon thunderstorms. In August, average temperatures in town range from 85° in the afternoon to 50° at night. In Taos ski valley, which is at a higher altitude, temperatures are a little cooler – in August, 75° during the afternoon and 38° at night. It is important to have extra layers to wear at night.

Our hikes are scheduled for the morning, when it is cooler and drier.

ACCOMODATIONS

We will be staying at the AAA-rated 3-Diamond San Geronimo Lodge, an historic, adobe Bed and Breakfast with studio space, wi-fi, pool and hot tub. 1101 Witt Road, Taos. For pictures and driving directions go to www.sangeronimolodge.com.

COSTS:

There is a single all-inclusive charge for this 7 day, 6 night workshop. It includes tuition for the workshop, lodging (group discount) for 6 nights (7 days), 6 gourmet breakfasts, 5 bag lunches and one hot on-site lunch, use of portable easels, and the fees for the O'Keeffe home and studio tour and the Taos Pueblo tour.

The all inclusive fees are:

- \$779 per person with a double occupancy room
- \$995 per room single occupancy,

Prices are prior to tax and gratuities. Gratuities for the kitchen and room cleaning staff may be left in the envelope in the guest room or front desk.

These fees do not include art supplies. For an additional charge of \$35 (optional), we will provide all necessary art supplies, including canvases, good brushes, easels, palettes, acrylic paints, oil paints and pastels

Gourmet breakfasts and bag lunches are included in your package. However, dinners are not. On most nights, we will car pool to a moderately priced local restaurant, where we will each pay for ourselves. Great Mexican and New Mexican food.

RESERVATIONS

Contact Charles or Pam of San Geronimo Lodge at 575-751-3776. (You can not reserve via the San Geronimo web site.) A 20% deposit is required at the time of booking.

CANCELLATIONS

The deposit, less a \$50 fee, is refundable if you cancel at least 30 days in advance of the event. After that, the deposit is non-refundable. If you cancel during the final 10 days prior to the event, you are responsible for the entire amount.

LIABILITY WAIVER

Our trips are conducted with safety in mind. But outdoor activities entail inherent risks. By registering for this trip, you accept full responsibility for any and all injuries or damages resulting from your participation in this trip. You agree to hold the leaders and lodge proprietor forever harmless from any action, claim or liability. Before the workshop begins, you will be required to sign a form with this liability waiver.

TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION

Fly into Albuquerque airport.

If you arrive a few days before the trip, you can expand your vacation by stopping in Santa Fe (with the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum and the annual Indian Market). One good trip would be to tour the “Turquoise Trail” from Albuquerque to Santa Fe (www.turquoisetrail.org). Another would be driving the “High Road” from Santa Fe to Taos (www.highroadnewmexico.com), passing many artist studios and a stunning landscape. There is also regular train service between Albuquerque and Santa Fe (see www.nmtrainrunner.com), as well as van shuttle service (e.g., www.sandiashuttle.com).

If you want to go straight from the Albuquerque airport to Taos, try to get a flight that arrives before 2 PM, so you can arrive before our first night social hour. You can take a regularly scheduled shuttle van from Albuquerque airport directly to the San Geronimo Lodge. Call Twin Hearts Express (800-654-9456 or 505-751-1201) a few days before you arrive. The round trip cost is \$90 (\$50 one way).

For many people, a round trip car rental is the best option. To save costs, share the rental with other participants. Once you have a car reservation, tell Barry and he will let other participants know, so that you can talk to each other. With cost-sharing, a car rental would not only be more convenient, but also potentially cheaper. It is most likely to be cheaper if you PICK UP the car at a rental site away from the airport (no extra cost to RETURN it to the airport rental site). This is what the leaders have done. We found a car rental office at a hotel 10 minutes from the airport. The hotel did not have its own shuttle service, but it was easy enough to get one at the airport. For our car, the off-site cost was almost half of what it would have been at the airport.

There is no reliable taxi service within Taos (the B+B is a pleasant two mile walk from the center of town). For the most part, we will get to hikes and restaurants by car-pooling. If you do not have a car, you will be dependent on others for a ride. If you need more independence, rent a car (for example, each night, the leaders will select a nice local restaurant and invite others to join them; if you have your own car, you have more options).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Barry or Kathy Skura: Bskura@optonline.net, 914-779-0936, www.hikingandart.org.