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PRESS RELEASE



**Georgia O'Keeffe /  
John Loengard:  
Paintings & Photographs**  
Edited by Lothar Schirmer  
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39 duotone photographs  
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*My pleasant disposition  
likes the world with nobody in it.*

Georgia O'Keeffe

**Georgia O'Keeffe retrospective**

*Through October 30, 2016*  
Tate Modern, London

*As of December 7, 2016*  
Bank Austria Kunstforum, Vienna

*As of April 22, 2017*  
Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto

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## Georgia O'Keeffe / John Loengard: Paintings & Photographs

*The painter as a model in John Loengard's famous photo series:  
On growing old gracefully*

In the 1960s Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986), already a world-famous painter, provided John Loengard, a budding photographer at the time, with instructive insights into her self-imposed reclusive existence in the desert of New Mexico. Our photo book *Georgia O'Keeffe / John Loengard: Paintings & Photographs* is an assemblage not only of O'Keeffe's world-famous works, but also of Loengard's haunting pictures of the artist who was at the time almost 80 years old. These photos have now become icons themselves.

O'Keeffe is one of the United States' most important 20<sup>th</sup>-century artists. Her vibrant paintings bordering on abstraction have made her one of the most expensive female artists of all time. In 1949, after the death of her husband, photographer and gallery owner Alfred Stieglitz, she retreated from the bastion of civilization that is New York to Abiquiu in the barren and untouched landscape of an Indian reservation. The breathtaking scenery there and her ascetic life fired her artistic imagination, inspiring her to produce original, idiosyncratic motifs.

John Loengard (born in New York City in 1934) visited Georgia O'Keeffe to photograph her for an article in *Life* magazine marking her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Loengard's intimate portraits of the "grand old lady" of painting, of which the 39 finest are assembled here in dialog with her paintings, accompany her through her day, showing her performing her daily rituals: her half-hour morning walk with her dog on the prairie, her work in the stony garden, her correspondence. Detailed shots of mountains and cliffs, skulls and bones, of O'Keeffe's collection of stones, her studio with its Spartan furnishings, and her Ghost Ranch betray the direct influence exercised by her surroundings on the subjects of her paintings and compositions. Loengard's images succeed in achieving the utterly impossible – rendering somehow audible the contemplative tranquility of this special place and the woman who lived in it. Because Loengard's photographs reveal the real sources of inspiration for O'Keeffe's fictions they have the potential to give rise to crucial experiences with her work. Our book thus not only introduces the readers to the solitude of O'Keeffe's Ghost Ranch, the place where she spent her twilight years, but also leads them to the heart of her creative oeuvre.

Our book is a special edition to mark the major **Georgia O'Keeffe retrospective** currently on show at the **Tate Modern** in **London** (until October 30, 2016) and subsequently at the **Bank Austria Kunstforum, Vienna** (as of December 7, 2016) and at the **Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto** (as of April 22, 2017).