

INTIMATE LANDSCAPES



THE CANYON SUITE OF

georgia o'keeffe

KEMPER MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART & DESIGN • DANA SELF • UNIVERSE

Thomas A. De

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Until very recently, an extraordinary and important series of Georgia O'Keeffe's paintings was unknown even to her most ardent admirers. Rediscovered in 1987, the twenty-eight watercolors, now known as the *Canyon Suite*, shed light on a seminal period of the artist's life and early career.

In addition to being a turning point in O'Keeffe's painting style, these watercolors are also among the first abstract works of any American artist. They are at once a stirring vision of the light, landscape, and scale of the plains of the Southwest and an intimate emotional tableau—in turns majestic and hauntingly vast.

Accompanying these paintings are excerpts from the writings of such authors and artists as Wassily Kandinsky and Arthur Wesley Dow, who lent O'Keeffe inspiration, and Willa Cather and Edward Abbey, who shared her gift for interpreting the most profound qualities of nature and landscapes. The works in this volume are also enriched by Georgia O'Keeffe's own musings, excerpted from letters and essays that passionately describe her impressions of the landscape and sky of the Southwest during her years spent in Canyon, Texas. O'Keeffe's intense relationship with nature, and more particularly with the American Southwest, has perhaps never been more movingly evoked than in these remarkable early watercolors.

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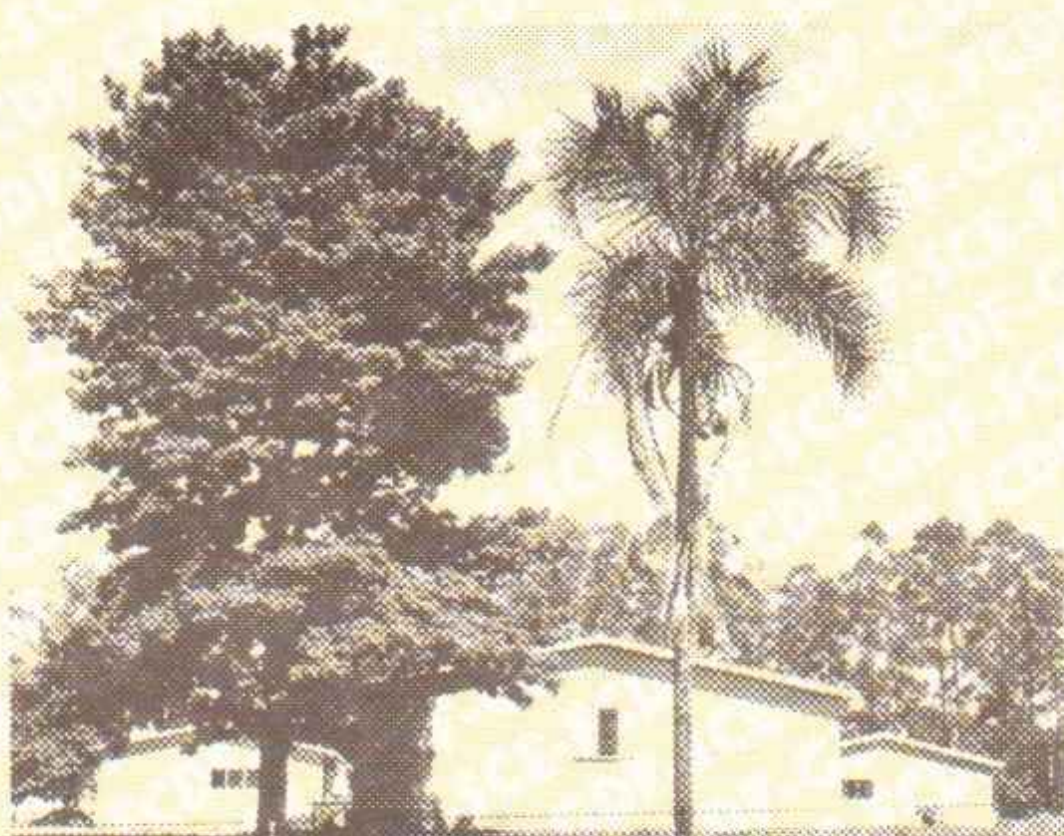
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Duda Bentes

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DANA SELF is the curator of The Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art & Design. She has organized numerous exhibitions of contemporary art in institutions across the American Midwest and has published essays, reviews, and criticism in various art journals, newspapers, and exhibition catalogues.

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