

Georgia
O'Keeffe **The Artist**
in the
Desert





Georgia
O'Keeffe **The Artist**
in the
Desert

Prestel

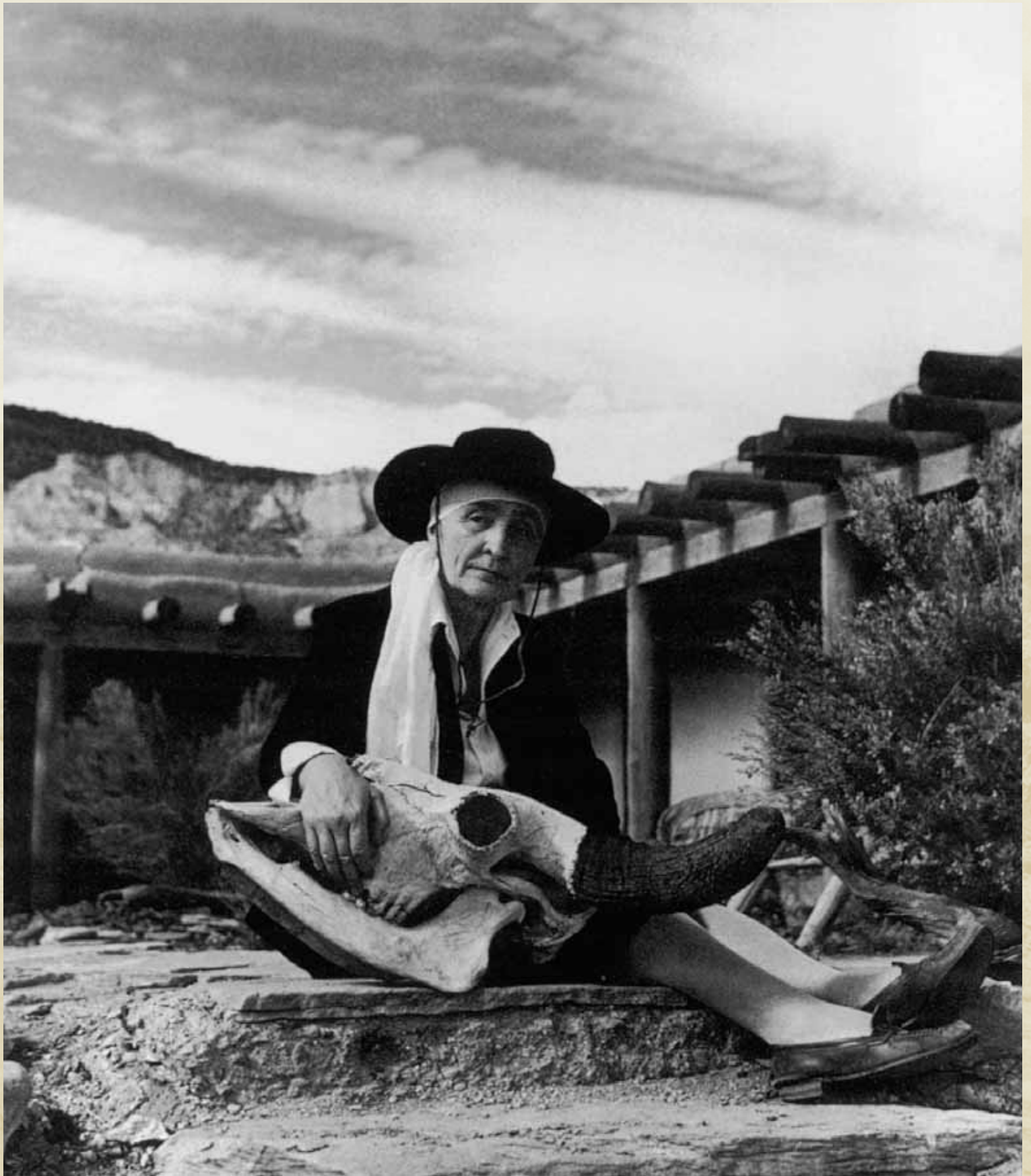
Munich · London · New York

Who is this lady?

She's wearing a black hat just like the cowboys and ranchers do in the American West.

Her name was Georgia O'Keeffe, and she was a famous painter.

In the background you can see the cliffs of Ghost Ranch in the desert of New Mexico. That's where Georgia O'Keeffe spent almost half her life. She painted this landscape so often that nowadays people call it O'Keeffe country.





Off to the Wild West!

When Georgia was a little girl, she lived with her family on a farm in Wisconsin. She used to love the adventure stories about Billy the Kid, Kit Carson, and the Wild West that her mother read to the children in the evenings.

That's when Georgia decided that Texas must be wonderful!

Years later, when she was a grown woman, Georgia still dreamt of Texas. She painted this watercolor when she was working in Texas as an art teacher.

The glowing colors express the excitement Georgia felt at the sight of the evening sky in the desert. She just painted what she saw on her walks: the endless prairie, up above it a fiery sunset, and the evening star that seems to shine so very brightly.



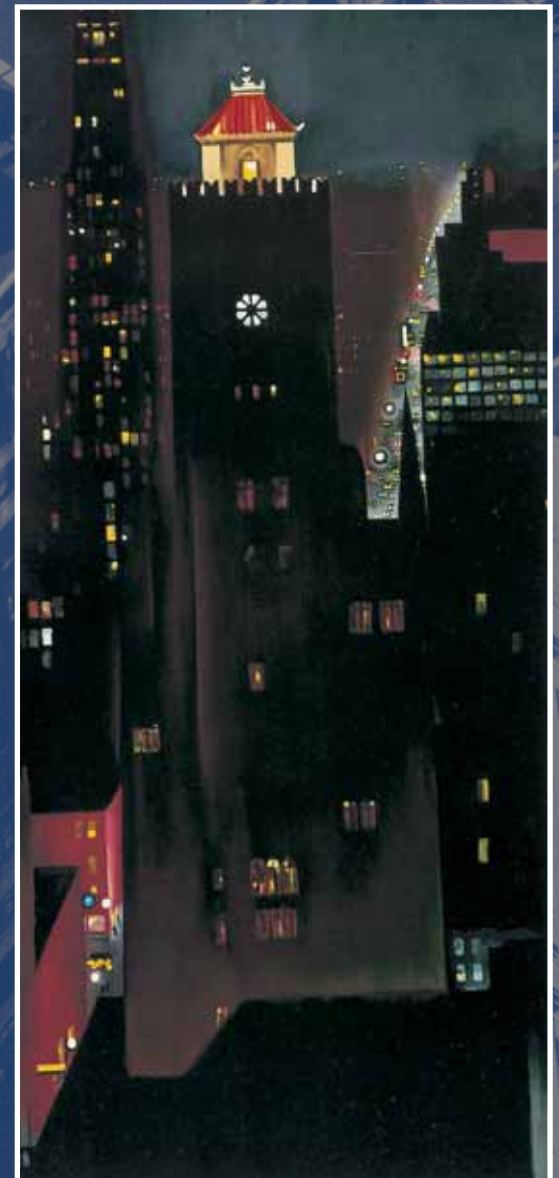
City life

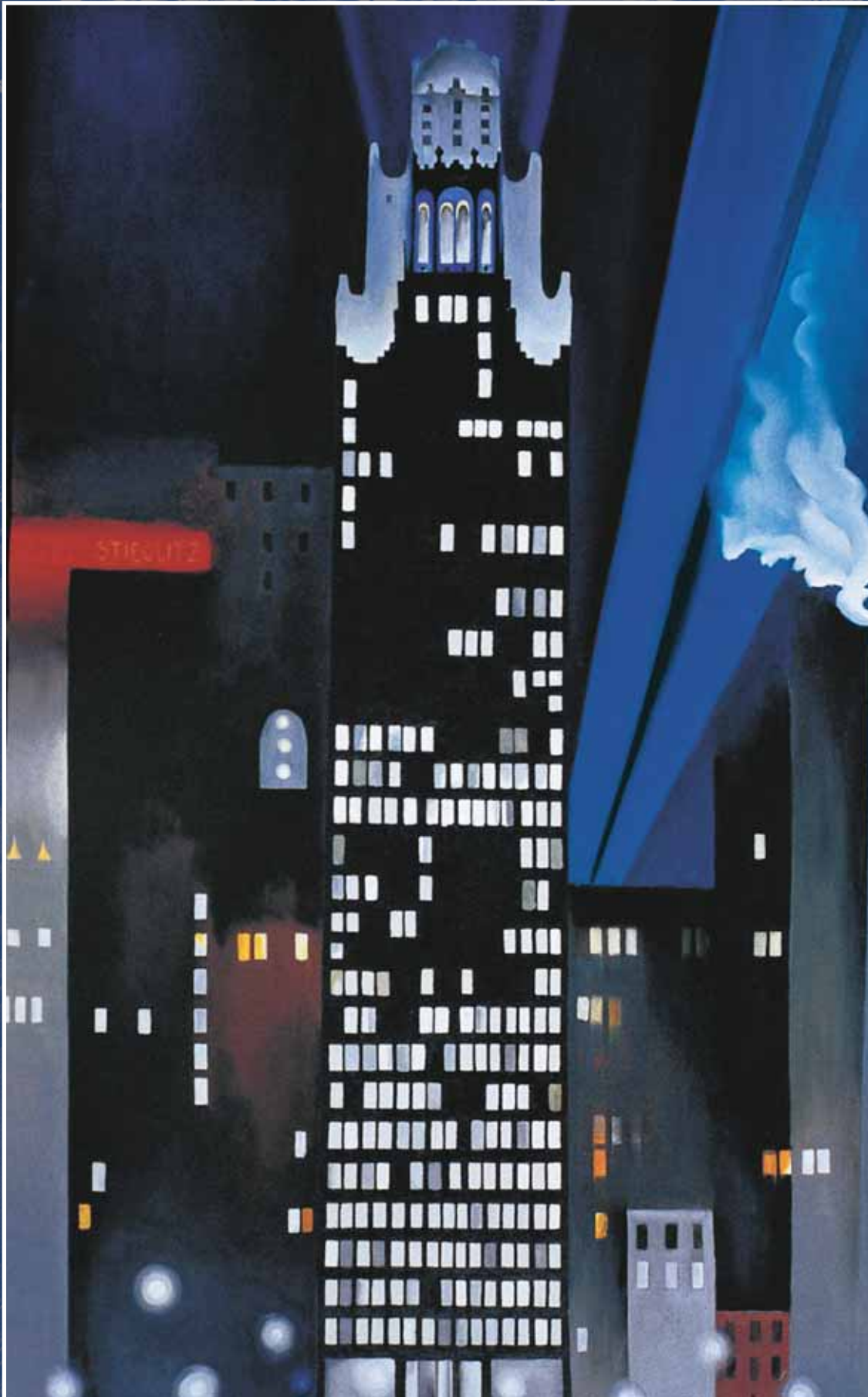
In this photograph Georgia stands next to Alfred Stieglitz. He was a famous photographer known all over the world. Alfred was so impressed by Georgia's drawings that he exhibited her work in his gallery in New York City.

Georgia and Alfred fell in love. Captivated by her beauty, over the years he took many photographs of her. After Georgia and Alfred married in 1924 they lived in a skyscraper, the Shelton Hotel, high up above the streets of New York City. They painted and photographed what they saw out of the windows of their apartment—by day and by night.

Can you see what's happening behind the illuminated windows?

In this picture Georgia painted the view looking down onto Lexington Avenue in New York City. The street at night always looked to her like "a very tall thin bottle with colored things going up and down inside it."





Summers in the country

The piece of drawing paper beside Georgia is still perfectly white.
Do you think she wants to paint the flowers you can see in front of her?



Alfred Stieglitz often photographed Georgia at Lake George. For several years they spent the summer months there together. In her garden by the lake, Georgia used to study every detail of the plants: their forms, the lines, and all their different colors. She was especially fascinated by the corn plant she painted in this picture: its leaves, that grow up and down at the same time, and its light-colored veins running down the center of the leaves like flashes of lightning.

