Georgia O'Keeffe and her paintings. One of the first female painters to achieve worldwide acclaim from critics and the general public, Georgia O'Keeffe was an American painter who created innovative impressionist images that challenged perceptions and evolved constantly throughout her career. Her 1958 painting Ladder to the Moon marked yet another shift in her work which many interpreted as a self-portrait that depicted the transitory nature of her life. Others viewed it as a religious statement that showed a link between the earth and cosmic forces above it. While her work varied between the literal portraits, abstractions and landscapes, O'Keeffe's work is still most identified by her iconic flower paintings. Georgia O'Keeffe captured the emotion and power of modern abstraction via her depictions of flowers, barren landscapes, and close-up still lifes. She worked in series, synthesizing abstraction and realism to produce works that emphasized the primary forms of nature. While some of these works are highly detailed, in others, she stripped away what she considered the inessential to focus on shape and color. Through intense observation of nature, experimentation with scale, and nuanced use of line and color, O'Keeffe's art remained grounded in representation even while pushing at its limits. Georgia O'Keeffe: circling around abstraction. Item Preview. remove-circle. Published in conjunction with an exhibition held at the Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, Feb. 10-May 6, 2007; Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, Santa Fe, May 25-Sept. 9, 2007; and Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Oct. 7, 2007-Jan. 6, 2008.