

The New Criterion

Art

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Exhibition note

by [Mario Naves](#)

On "Georgia O'Keeffe: Abstraction" at the Whitney Museum of Art, New York.



Georgia O'Keeffe, *Abstraction*

A painting is fully experienced only through direct contact. A photograph might give an indication of what a particular canvas looks like, but not what it is or, more crucially, what it does. Subtleties in surface and scale, especially, are lost or muddled in reproduction. Who hasn't been wowed by a picture in a catalog or online only to be disappointed when the thing is encountered in the flesh? I was reminded of the limits of pho ...

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