

GEORGIA O'KEEFFE & HER CHOWS



"It seems to be my mission in life to wait on a dog" -Georgia O'Keeffe

Georgia O'Keeffe is a 20th-century American painter best known for her flower canvases and southwestern landscapes,...she has always been a silent mentor and rock star in my eyes and heavily influenced my earlier watercolors. In my research as I found out more about her deep devotion to her own chow

chows....I became even more entranced by this amazing woman.

Georgia O'Keeffe was a member of the Chow Chow Club Inc. in 1972 and a copy of her membership certificate is on the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum website

She attended the CCCI National Specialty in 1973 in Fort Worth Texas, with her agent at the time Doris Bry. where they met Dr. Samuel Draper, author, breeder, judge, and owner of Lontamer Kennels

As a result of their meeting, Miss O'Keeffe and Doris Bry made a trip to Lontamer Kennels to visit Dr. Sam in Monroe NY where she described each of his chows as only an artist could "this dog's head is a giant orange chrysanthemum"...."and this one is a magnificent scarlet pin cushion" (source The Book of the Chow Chow by Samuel Draper)

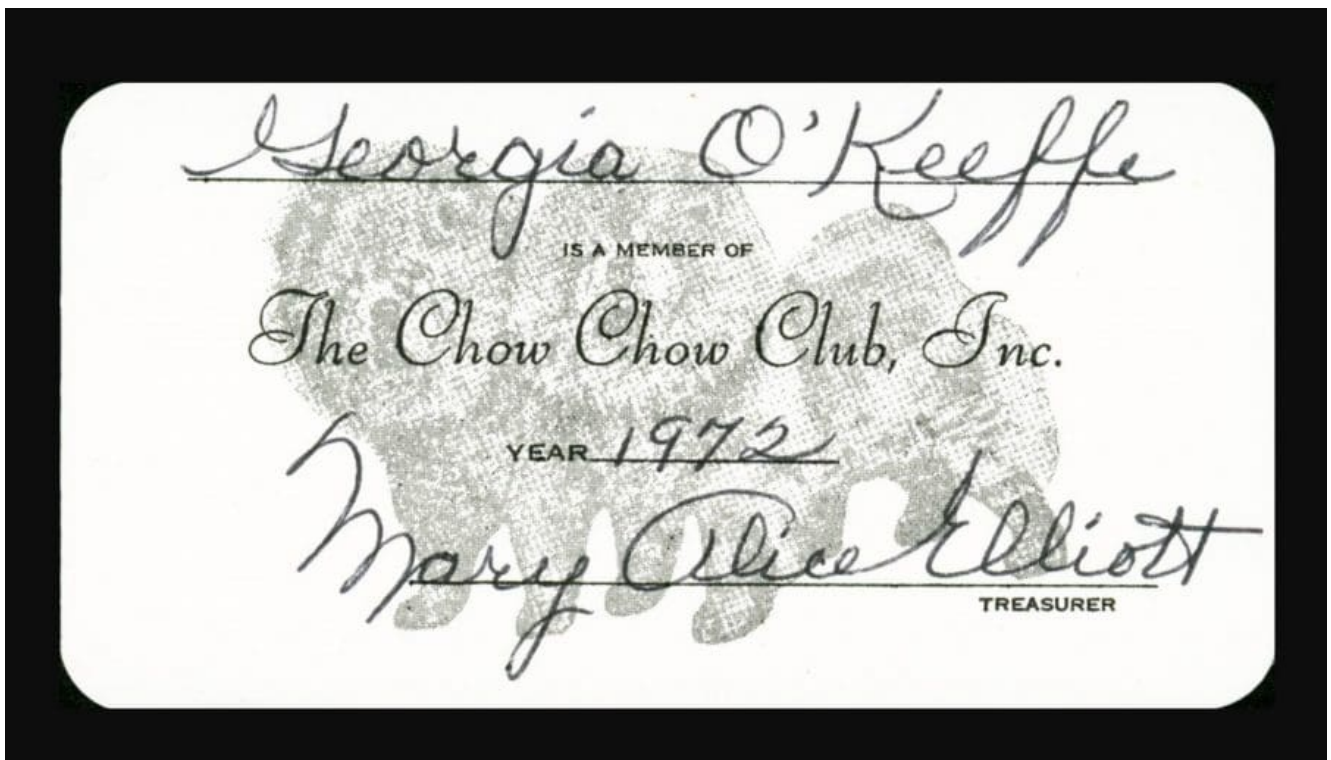


Photo courtesy Georgia O'Keeffe Museum

Many of these images of her chows were tucked into an online archive that I started digging into and found some unbelievable treasures. Image credit: Georgia O'Keeffe Museum and archives





I am assuming these two blue puppies are Bo and Chia.
Courtesy Georgia O'Keeffe Museum

A neighbor gave Georgia two blue Chow puppies she named Bo and Chia for Christmas in 1953. Bo was her favorite, but sadly he was hit by a truck and killed. But she became devoted to the Chow breed and ended up having six during her lifetime including Bobo, Jinga, and Inca. She referred to her chows fondly as "Little People". Once Georgia owned a chow...it was the only breed she had thereafter.

NEW INFORMATION ADDED NOVEMBER 15, 2016 — From Chow Chow Club Inc. historian Dottie Everett. JoAnne O'Brien she mentions was the owner of Linnchow Kennels, daughter of an equally successful family in the breed since the 1930s. Thank you, Dottie, for this valuable information.

"Sandra did you know that two of Georgia O'Keeffe's Chows came from JoAnne O'Brien's LinnChow Kennel? JoAnne told me about it and showed me a letter from Georgia O'Keeffe thanking her for

“the wonderful companions “

Here is a pedigree from the Georgia O'Keeffe website for the blue male chow INCA which has Linnchow dogs in the pedigree, however, JoAnne O'Brien is not listed as the breeder on this particular dog.

CERTIFIED PEDIGREE			
BREED <u>Chow-Chow</u>	COLOR AND/OR MARKINGS <u>Blue</u>	SEX <u>Male</u>	DATE WHIPPED <u>July 3, 1956</u>
CALL NAME <u>Inca</u>	BREEDER <u>Margaret M. Coburn</u>	ADDRESS <u>211 Chicago St. Huntington Beach, Calif.</u>	
REG. NAME	A.K.C. REG. No.	SELLER <u>Margaret M. Coburn</u>	
<u>Ch. JON-NEE Linnchow</u> Sire OF POPPYLAND	<u>Ch. LINNCHOW Li Fu</u> Sire	<u>Ch. LINNCHOW Chu Fu II</u> Sire	<u>Ch. Sheng Li An LINNCHOW</u> Dam
<u>How-Hi of Poppyland</u> Sire (N-205140)	<u>IMAGE of T'GO</u> Dam	<u>T'Go</u> Sire	<u>T'Go Yang Toi</u> Dam
<u>MANDARIN'S HEART'S DESIRE</u> Dam	<u>Ch. VAR Cloud of</u> Sire Poppyland	<u>Ch. IMPEE BRILLIANT</u> Sire	<u>TUFFEE of Poppyland</u> Dam
	<u>FLAME of MARI BEE</u> Dam	<u>Li CHING'S YING YANG of</u> Sire FERG-SUN	<u>MANDARIN'S BLUE SMOKE</u> Dam
<u>Ch. WONG-T'SUNG of KIN-SHAN</u> Sire	<u>RU Chang of KIN-SHAN</u> Sire	<u>T'Sieh of KIN-SHAN</u> Sire	<u>SU YAN-GEE</u> Dam
<u>Scott's T'Sing of KIN-SHAN</u> Dam (N-259869)	<u>DONWELL DESCONA</u> Dam	<u>DONWELL DESCO</u> Sire	<u>GREAT WESTWOOD AURORA</u> Dam
<u>JANISSE OF HORWODO</u> Dam	<u>JANIS of KIN-SHAN</u> Sire	<u>Chu-Kol of KIN-SHAN</u> Sire	<u>BLUE BELLA of KIN-SHAN</u> Dam
	<u>BLACK BESS OF HORWODO</u> Dam	<u>Ammon of JUNG-GWAW</u> Sire	<u>PANDA of HORWODO</u> Dam
I hereby certify that this Pedigree is true to the best of my knowledge <u>Margaret M. Coburn</u> Signed			

Photo courtesy Georgia O'Keeffe museum website



beautiful image of 2 of O'Keeffe's chows. Note the art inspiration on the wall behind the dogs.

– Courtesy Georgia O'Keeffe Museum



O'Keeffe's paintings, like "Oriental Poppies, 1928," accentuate the beauty and importance of the flower by magnifying it to monumental

size. By painting enormous, vibrantly hued flowers, the art conveyed O'Keeffe's wonderment at nature by removing the subjects from any recognizable context and transforming their organic forms into powerful abstracts.



Georgia O'Keeffe Grooms her Dogs by John Loengard, 1966

"O'Keeffe's life was very much centered around her Chows: "they sleep in my room at night and in the day are always just outside the door." One hot summer days she refused to embark on her annual painting trips by car, fearing the weather was dangerous for her pets and she declined to install a new heater in her New Mexico ranch as the only place it would fit was her dog's favorite sleeping spot. She even commissioned a shawl to be made from her dogs' coats once they shed in spring.



Taking a peek in the window- Courtesy Georgia O'Keeffe Museum

Bo (or Bobo or Beau, as she also referred to him) was the favorite of all O'Keeffe's canine friends; "big with a strong smooth coat," she described him as the "town boss" of Abiquiu, where he had a fierce reputation. When he died, O'Keeffe buried Bo under a cedar tree and wrote, "I like to think that probably he goes running and leaping through the White Hills alone in the night." O'Keeffe's final companion was Jingo, a red Chow who died not long before the artist herself." ~text by Daisy Woodward



Georgia O'Keeffe and her Chow by John Loengard. In my opinion, this is one of the most incredible images of the artist and her dog ever taken. Iconic!



A beautiful image of one of her blue dogs.
This could possibly be “Bo”, the one she described
to have such a smooth coat
Courtesy Georgia O’Keeffe Museum



What a handsome young blue dog...looks like a puppy
coat change to me!
-Courtesy Georgia O’Keeffe Museum



Georgia O'Keeffe on Evening Walk with her Dog, Ghost Ranch, by John Loengard, 1966 This is another masterfully photographed scene of the artist on an outing with her chow



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Laura Kraft



Georgia O'Keeffe's red chow...possibly Jingo who died shortly before she did. Photo was taken after 1972 –

Courtesy Georgia O'Keeffe Museum



All I can see is this chow stealing one of Georgia's painting props-

Courtesy Georgia O'Keeffe Museum

As an artist myself, my breath was literally taken away when I

saw Georgia O'Keeffe's work at an exhibition in San Francisco for the first time in person. I walked into the exhibit room and was completely taken aback by the massive scale of the paintingstears instantly started flowing. I looked around to see if I was totally embarrassing myself and saw that most of the other attendees were moved to tears as well.



The figures in the sculpture all faced west into the setting sun.

Photo credit Bryan Costales

Marisol sculpture in San Francisco of Georgia O'Keeffe and her chows



Another view of the Marisol sculpture Georgia O'Keefe
and her chows
Photo credit Bryan Costales





A stunning image of one of O'Keeffe's beautiful chows on the rocks in the winter.

Courtesy Georgia O'Keeffe Museum

Below is an incredible video of O'Keeffe talking about her work, at her home in New Mexico in 1977. She was nearly 90 at the time.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GEORGIA O'KEEFFE AT THE MUSEUM WEBSITE](#)

- NAME: Georgia O'Keeffe
- OCCUPATION: Painter
- BIRTHDATE: November 15, 1887
- DEATH DATE: March 06, 1986
- EDUCATION: Art Institute of Chicago
- PLACE OF BIRTH: Sun Prairie, Wisconsin
- PLACE OF DEATH: Santa Fe, New Mexico

