



Georgia O'Keeffe
1887-1986, American

Georgia O'Keeffe painted many flower paintings but she rarely painted sunflowers. She painted two sunflower paintings in 1935-37. In both of the sunflower compositions, she featured a single, virtually life-sized blossom against a colored setting. The flowers are seen close-up, but they have not been greatly enlarged or severely abstracted. In *A Sunflower for Maggie*, O'Keeffe used a light salmon background which at first seems to contrast to the rich yellow of the flower, but the background color is carefully picked up in the petals. The greens of the florets and leaves are also echoed discreetly in the petals, creating a unified composition. She painted another version on a blue background. The "Maggie" of the title refers to O'Keeffe's friend, Margaret Johnson, wife of Robert Wood Johnson, president of the pharmaceutical company Johnson and Johnson. They owned a house near O'Keeffe at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico.