## >> FLANNERY O'CONNOR 100 CELEBRATION



## **GCSU** hosts celebration of O'Connor's 100th birthday

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Georgia College & State University (GCSU) celebrated Flannery O'Connor's 100th birthday March 26-29 with various events.

Flannery O'Connor was an American novelist, born on March 25, 1925, most famous for her work in short stories. Andalusia Farm in Milledgeville, GA served as her home from 1951-1964. During the 13 years she lived in Andalusia, she completed the bulk of her literary work.

The week of celebrations began with a display of newly discovered Flannery artwork from throughout the different stages of her life displayed in GCSU's Magnolia Ballroom. The exhibit hosted more than 50 pieces from oil paintings and a self-portrait to woodburned illustrations and linoleum-block prints.

From March 24-26, GCSU hosted a singer-songwriter workshop with American folk musician Sally Jaye, along with various other book readings and lectures. Nine participants attended the workshop.

On March 27, GCSU hosted a concert on the grounds



day of the home. Attendees could also take the selfguided augmented reality tour around the property, where many of the old barns and houses are Department, Sally Jaye, and special guest Rob Sumowski.

Beyond the

music and food

throughout the

trucks, Andalusia offered free tours

by Grammy-nominated artist Shawn Mullins. Mullins brought a blend of folk-rock and storytelling to the stage while Jaye offered an "authentic Americana style," according to the event biography. On March 28, the college

of Andalusia Farm with an

opening act from Jaye followed

screened Ethan Hawke's Flannery O'Connor biopic Wildcat in Russell Auditorium and offered an open discussion with film producers prior to the readers inspired by Flannery

Completing the week, a music festival was held at Andalusia Farm with food trucks and free tours. Attendees were served cake while being able to listen to tunes by Colin Cutler and Hot Pepper Jam, of GCSU's Music

open for viewing.

Flannery O'Connor is one of Georgia College & State University's (Georgia State College for Women) most famed alumni. Alongside the museum, GCSU has more of O'Connor's history in the university's Special Collections. GCSU also hosts the Flannery O'Connor Institute for Humanities, which founded to engage with scholars, writers, and O'Connor's works and fosters a deeper understanding of her life and work. As such, celebrating her centennial year was a monumental honor for the both the university and the many historians, locals, and tourists who traveled to participate in the celebrations.





O'Connor is often associated with pea fowl due to how many she raised on the lands of Andalusia. In memory of her love for these birds, Aster and his mate (not pictured) live on the property.

## O'Connor's unseen visual art revealed on her 100th birthday



An oil painting by Flannery O'Connor of an unidentified woman featured in Andalusia's gallery.

**Jackson Gallagher** The Baldwin Bulletin

100 years after her birth, over 60 largely unknown pieces of art by Flannery O'Connor were revealed at the opening reception of a new art gallery exhibit, "Flannery at 100: Hidden Treasures."

Scholars and fans alike, as well as Georgia College & State University President Cathy Cox, convened at Georgia College's Magnolia Ballroom for the event. The exhibit uncovered the work and the stories of O'Connor's life. From oil paintings to woodwork, the new art gave insight to the people and places that shaped O'Connor's life.

The highlight of the exhibit, a self-portrait under a strict no-photography policy, may be the only piece of its kind. The portrait contained O'Connor and a pheasant cock, a constant theme in her work

Other works include paintings of her home, her animals, flowers, churches, and several people who were important to her. The woodworks include several different moonlight landscapes. The exhibit is tied together with stories and quotes from O'Connor, explaining

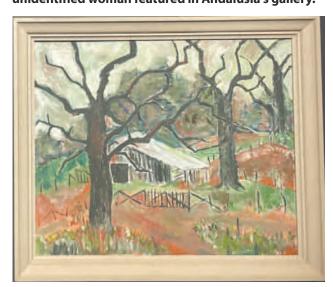
her work and her life. This new gallery will be housed at Andalusia Farm until Dec. 22. Andalusia was the home of O'Connor and is depicted in several works. Cassie Munnell, the curator at Andalusia, spoke on how these new pieces of art came to be found.

"We received the donations of the work from the family and a family friend from the O'Connor's home on Greene Street," Munnell said. "It is an interesting new facet of Flannery's work. It gives [GCSU] and

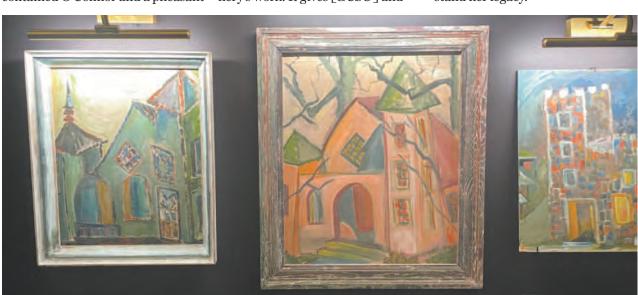
Milledgeville something new to talk about regarding Flannery. We have had publications from around the country come in to see the pieces."

Dr. Robert Donahoo, a professor of English at Sam Houston State University, delivered a closing speech for the new gallery. Donahoo discussed the background of O'Connor, her life, and her art. Regarding the art, he believes the new work will change how people

"I think it will bring people in. For scholars, it gives us another piece of evidence and it will help us understand Flannery more," Donahoo said. "You know, Flannery was wiser than we give her credit for. I am convinced there is more art out there that we don't know about yet. As we see more, it will ultimately change the way we see and understand her legacy."



JACKSON GALLAGHER/Staff The introduction piece to the gallery featured beside the short biography on O'Connor, Georgia College's most famous alum.



JACKSON GALLAGHER/Staff

Various churches painted by O'Connor over the years. O'Connor was known for painting imagery inspired by her daily life. Raised catholic and in the south, church was likely a staple in her life.