

An Attic Rediscovery of Flannery O'Connor's Art



COURTESY GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY

Flannery O'Connor's painting of a barn at Andalusia, her family farm in Milledgeville, Georgia.



Flannery O'Connor is best known as a master of Southern Gothic storytelling, but before writing classics like *"A Good Man Is Hard to Find"* and *Wise Blood*, she wanted to be an artist. "Her career goals were to become a cartoonist for the likes of the *New Yorker*," said Amanda Respass, director of news and media relations at Georgia College & State University.



For decades, proof of that dream sat undiscovered. Then in 2023, paintings were found in the attic of O'Connor's childhood home, a 200-year-old white clapboard house on West Greene Street in downtown Milledgeville, Georgia. Through early 2026, Georgia College & State University, her alma mater and home of her archive, is presenting an exhibition of over two dozen paintings by O'Connor, as well as journals, childhood toys, and other artifacts. Organized in honor of O'Connor's hundredth birthday, it is on view at her family farm, Andalusia, now owned by the college. She moved there in 1951 following her diagnosis with lupus.

Louise Florencourt, her aunt, executor, and the last resident of the West Greene Street house, died in 2023, bequeathing it to Georgia College & State University and paving the way for O'Connor scholars to find the paintings. "Everything that's on display currently has never been seen before by the public and really paints an interesting picture," said Cassie Munnell, curator at Andalusia.

