

4215

Georgia O'Keeffe

Judy Chicago (1980): The Georgia O'Keeffe plate is a fusion of O'Keeffe's imagery and mine. It is based upon her famous painting of the iris, which has that dark, mysterious center, which for me reflects the mystery of life. This image also reiterates the center core in the Primordial Goddess plate and thus links the first and the last plate. O'Keeffe's plate sits on a runner made of the Belgian linen used by painters. The front and the back of the runner are wrapped around a specially made stretcher bar, another reference to her as an artist. The edges are roughly cut and break away from the rectangular format. I want you to notice the fusion of the stitching and the sprayed fade on the top of the runner, which represents the fusion of women's ideas from the context traditionally associated with women—that is, needlework—to the context traditionally associated with men—painting. It is this infusion of the whole stream of women's history and creative genius into the structure of civilization that *The Dinner Party* is all about.