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I have picked flowers where I found them –
Have picked up sea shells and rocks and pieces of
wood where there were sea shells and rocks and
pieces of wood that I liked

When I found the beautiful white bones on the
desert I picked them up and took them home too

I have used these things to say what is to me the
wideness and wonder of the world as I live in it

—Georgia O' Keeffe, in the catalogue
of an exhibition of her 1943 paintings at An American Place

The first seven drawings are from a group that I made in 1915-16 when I first had the idea that what I had been taught was of little value to me except for the use of my materials as a language – charcoal, pencil, pen and ink, watercolor, pastel and oil. The use of my materials wasn't a problem for me. But what to say with them? I had been taught to work like others and after careful thinking I decided that I wasn't going to spend my life doing what had already been done.

I realized that I had things in my head not like what I had been taught – not like what I had seen – shapes and ideas so familiar to me that it hadn't occurred to me to put them down. I decided to stop painting, to put away everything I had done, and to start to say the things that were my own.

This was one of the best times in my life. There was no one around to look at what I was doing – no one interested – no one to say anything about it one way or another. I was alone and singularly free, working into my own, unknown – no one to satisfy but myself.

DRAWING NO. 9 is the drawing of a headache. It was a very bad headache at the time that I was busy drawing every night, sitting on the floor in front of the closet door.

Well, I had the headache, why not do something with it? So - here it is.

5 DRAWING NO. 9. 1915. Charcoal. 25 x 19 inches





8 DRAWING. 1917? Charcoal. 25×19 inches



16 GOAT'S HORNS II. 1945. Charcoal. 23½×18 inches

17 RAM'S HORNS II. Ca. 1949. Charcoal. $18\frac{5}{8} \times 24\frac{5}{8}$ inches



