

Curatorial Statement

The Haunted House is a short story by Virginia Woolf, published in her first collection of short fiction, "Monday or Tuesday" in the year 1921. After her death, this literary work appeared as the leading story of another collection of stories, "A Haunted House and Other Short Stories" published in 1944 according to the website Literaryladiesguide.com. The aforementioned short story, "A Haunted House" tells the story about two lovers seeking their hidden joy. Woolf uses her technical mastery to begin the story with a creepy allusion but it is later revealed it's not really a haunting of horror but a haunting highlighting return and lovingly loss including important places. Elements in the short story include the house having a heartbeat and representing the lovers themselves as one. Also that the treasure itself is their past memories and the love they have in each other. Their ghosts furthermore are an extension of their time together and endless love. Time is an important factor in the short story as it shows their love in life and in death. Woolf utilizes these aspects to help her approach a modernist perspective. The ghosts' interactivity with the living couple represents interconnectedness in the sense that they go about daily life as if death and life is imperceptible. Undoubtedly, Woolf, as a successful modernist writer, exhibits her creativity and intelligence in her work, providing a new voice for literature. Modernism is not only represented by the interconnectedness of the couples but also the ghosts stream of consciousness. The ghosts are conscious of their search in finding this treasure but they also lose it and have the need for finding it again which furthers their stream of consciousness.

Woolf's approach to modernism also challenges the traditional elements of single narrative. The author does this by creating multiple characters/ narratives within a story, being the narrator, the ghosts, and the reader themselves. Woolf addresses the reader using words like "you" and "us", with this we can assume she intends to capture the authenticity of both worlds -

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fiction and reality, as one. There seems to be a connection from the narrator to the reader and the wife also to the female ghost. This work echoes her other works because according to Queen's University's article "Hauntingly Beautiful" the author remarks Woolf's audio of "Craftmanship" as if Woolf seemed to be asking "How can we combine the old worlds[and movements] in new orders so that they survive". This can be seen as a reflection to the ghost looking over the living woman seeing her life as what it was but also as what it is now. Virginia Woolf had major impacts on other writers as well, according to *The Waste Land* and Virginia Woolf's 'A Haunted House' by Oliver Tearle, the article states "Woolf influenced T.S. Eliot's poetry". She did this by Eliot's work reflecting more female narratives and sharing similar details in his writing. Another modernist writer she inspired was Welty according to Suzan Harrison in "Eudora Welty and Virginia Woolf: gender, genre, and influence". Suzan "examines Welty's "devouring" of the works of Virginia Woolf and the ways in which Welty assimilates and transforms in each of her major novels". This can relate to the transformation from living to the dead in the story *A Haunted House*. Through the exhibit assets represent different elements of Virginia's Woolf modernist approach to *The Haunted House*. Woolf's approach to modernism challenges the narrative of an original scary short story by creating an unexpected plot. Her work invokes thought and creativity and it has impacted many writers that were to come after her.