

POLICY STATEMENT

Acquisitions by the J. Paul Getty Museum

(Adopted by the Board of Trustees of the J. Paul Getty Trust on October 23, 2006)

General

The Getty Museum seeks to foster in a broad audience a greater appreciation and understanding of art by collecting and preserving, exhibiting, and interpreting works of art. Our collection is the principal means by which the Museum's mission is fulfilled, and the Museum is therefore committed to further developing the collection according to the highest ethical standards and in compliance with all applicable laws.

The Getty Museum's collection originated in the restricted interests of J. Paul Getty. Despite having been broadened, strengthened, and enlarged in the years since his death, the collection remains strongly focused in its scope. At present the collection encompasses art of the ancient Greek, Roman, and Etruscan world; European paintings, sculpture, drawings, illuminated manuscripts, and decorative arts created before 1900; photography from the inception of that medium to the present day; and a select group of modern and contemporary works of art, mainly European and American outdoor sculpture. It is a collection formed primarily for exhibition, although not all objects can be exhibited at all times.

This policy governs the acquisition of works of art for the Museum's collection no matter how they are made, whether by purchase, gift, bequest, exchange, or any other method.

Criteria for acquisitions

A potential acquisition should be of excellent quality (involving a variable combination of visual power, inventiveness, strong content, and art-historical importance); fall within our existing collecting areas as stated above; advance the Getty's educational mission; and have survived in a good state of preservation (unless, in special circumstances, its importance outweighs condition concerns or its restoration is deemed to be feasible by the relevant Museum conservation department).

Conditions of acquisition

1. No object will be acquired without assurance that valid and legal title can be transferred.
2. The Museum will undertake due diligence to establish the legal status of an object under consideration for acquisition, making every reasonable effort to investigate, substantiate, or clarify the provenance of the object.
3. No object will be acquired that, to the knowledge of the Museum, has been stolen, removed in contravention of treaties and international conventions of which the United States is a signatory, illegally exported from its country of origin or the country where it was last legally owned, or illegally imported into the United States.
4. In addition, for the acquisition of any ancient work of art or archaeological material, the Museum will require:
 - a.) Documentation or substantial evidence that the item was in the United States by November 17, 1970 (the date of the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property) and that there is no reason to suspect it was illegally exported from its country of origin, OR
 - b.) Documentation or substantial evidence that the item was out of its country of origin before November 17, 1970 and that it has been or will be legally imported into the United States, OR
 - c.) Documentation or substantial evidence that the item was legally exported from its country of origin after November 17, 1970 and that it has been or will be legally imported into the United States.



- c.) Documentation or substantial evidence that the item was legally exported from its country of origin after November 17, 1970 and that it has been or will be legally imported into the United States.
5. Warranties of good title and legal export shall be required as a condition of each acquisition or donation, except for objects purchased at public auction.
6. All information obtained about the provenance of an acquisition must be preserved, and (unless, in the opinion of the Museum Director and the Getty Trust's Office of General Counsel, specific circumstances dictate otherwise) all such information shall be made available to the public upon written request. This policy shall not be interpreted so as to impose upon the Museum a duty to locate and provide detailed information not readily available through its collection management system, other current records, or the resources readily available on-site at the Getty.
7. The Museum will not buy works of art from any person or entity barred from transacting with the Museum by applicable law, nor from its staff, Trustees, or business entities in which these individuals or their spouses hold any beneficial interest.
8. The Museum will not buy, or accept the gift, bequest, or exchange of, works of art that bear restrictions on their display, publication, or other uses (unless, in the opinion of the Museum Director and the Getty Trust's Board of Trustees, the proposed restrictions are not deemed onerous or inappropriate and the Museum's best interest is served by accepting them). In addition, the Museum reserves the right to decline a gift or bequest if the costs of its transportation, installation, storage, or conservation are prohibitive.

Accessioning, exhibition and publication

Once acquired, a work of art will be promptly accessioned and catalogued in accordance with the Museum's standard procedures. If appropriate for display, it will be placed on exhibition as soon as it can be suitably installed; in any case, it will be published no later than in the annual report for the year in which it was acquired.

Claims

Should the Museum find itself in possession of an object which can be shown, by clear and convincing evidence, to have been acquired, excavated, or exported in violation of Paragraph III.3 or III.4 above, the Museum shall proceed in good faith to determine what steps might be taken to preserve the interests of all concerned parties. These steps may, in the appropriate circumstances, include a return of the object to its country of origin or restitution of an object to an earlier owner, provided such a return or restitution is consistent with the Trustees' legal and fiduciary duties as stewards of a charitable trust.

