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Catalogue Celebrates the Inventive Photography of Jo Ann Callis

LOS ANGELES—Jo Ann Callis has long exploited the emotional power of color and texture. *Jo Ann Callis: Woman Twirling* (J. Paul Getty Museum, \$29.95, hardcover) is a collection of the artist's inventive photographs, which involve tactile objects and images of people in mysterious, often unsettling narratives. This volume is the catalogue to an exhibition to be held at the J. Paul Getty Museum from March 31 to August 9, 2009, and constitutes the first book-length treatment of Callis's work since 1989. Included here are sixty-eight color and fifteen black-and-white works that range from 1974 to 2005. An introductory essay by the exhibition's curator, Judith Keller, traces Callis's career and examines several of the photographs featured in the book.

Many of these invented, dreamlike scenes of people and objects will be new to viewers, including a photographic installation of fifteen images of pastries lusciously printed in Cibachrome against textile backgrounds, and a more recent series of digitally montaged domestic interiors. Others are familiar favorites, such as *Salt, Pepper, Fire*, in which a pair of salt and pepper shakers and cup of coffee stand next to a plate of food that has burst into flame while a bird flies over the table. All of these works attest to Callis's singular vision of the delicate boundary between the world within and the world without.

Callis emerged in the early 1980s as one of the first important practitioners of the Fabricated Photographs movement. She created objects and staged situations specifically for the purpose of being photographed. She has also contributed adventurous work in the areas of sculpture, painting, and digital imagery.

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About the Author—Judith Keller is acting senior curator in the Department of Photographs at the J. Paul Getty Museum.

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Jo Ann Callis

Woman Twirling

Judith Keller

J. Paul Getty Museum

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72 color and 15 duotone illustrations

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