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Contact: Melissa Crowley

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(310) 440-6795 • mcrowley@getty.edu

Blurring the Lines Between Decorative Arts and Sculpture

LOS ANGELES— While some artworks are more readily labeled as “decorative arts” and others as “sculpture,” such objects can exchange and share features. *Taking Shape: Finding Sculpture in the Decorative Arts* (J. Paul Getty Museum, \$40.00, hardcover) explores how decorative objects intended for functional or ceremonial use can incorporate sculptural forms or assert a sculptural presence and, conversely, sculpture can perform decoratively, serving an ornamental program or purpose.

Taking Shape showcases thirty-eight extraordinary works of decorative art, furniture, and sculpture, executed in the exuberant Baroque and Rococo styles during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, that embody such sculptural inventiveness. Drawn from the collections of the J. Paul Getty Museum and the Temple Newsam House, Leeds, England, these pieces will be on exhibit from October 2, 2008, through January 4, 2009, at the Henry Moore Institute, Leeds, and from March 31, 2009, through July 5, 2009, at the J. Paul Getty Museum.

About the Authors— Martina Droth is research coordinator at the Henry Moore Institute, Leeds; Charissa Bremer-David is curator in the Department of Sculpture and Decorative Arts at the J. Paul Getty Museum; Katie Scott is reader at the Courtauld Institute, London; Mary D. Sheriff is associate professor in the Department of Art at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and Mimi Hellman is assistant professor of art history at Skidmore College.

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Taking Shape

Finding Sculpture in the Decorative Arts

Introduction by Martina Droth

Essays by Charissa Bremer-David, Katie Scott, Mimi Hellmann, and Mary D. Sheriff

J. Paul Getty Museum

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115 color and 88 b/w illustrations

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