



The J. Paul Getty Trust
Communications Department

1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 400
Los Angeles, California 90049-1681
www.getty.edu

Tel 310 440 7360
Fax 310 440 7722
communications@getty.edu

NEWS FROM THE GETTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
2010

GETTY CENTER

LOS ANGELES—Since opening its doors in 1997, the Getty Center has welcomed nearly 14 million visitors and become a cultural destination that has played a key role in helping Los Angeles become an important leader in the arts.

Envisioned in the early 1980s as a way to bring together the Getty's programs, properly exhibit the collection which had outgrown its previous home in Pacific Palisades, and create an inspiring public setting for the study and enjoyment of the visual arts, the Getty Center was designed by architect Richard Meier, and features the Central Garden created by artist Robert Irwin, as well as sweeping views of Los Angeles and the Pacific coast.

The Getty Center is home to the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Getty Research Institute, the Getty Conservation Institute, and the Getty Foundation. Together, these programs have conducted and funded research, conservation, and education programs locally, nationally, and internationally. More than 550,000 students, many from Title 1 schools, have augmented their arts education with visits to the Getty. And its exhibitions and public programs have given Los Angeles some of its most dramatic art experiences.

Extending far beyond the Getty Center itself, Getty collaborations with other Los Angeles cultural institutions have enriched the community's understanding of the visual arts in all its forms. Collaborations extend around the world, as well, in research, conservation, scholarship, and exhibitions on virtually every continent.

In addition, the Getty Center has become an international center for scholarship, hosting scholars from all over the world who have come to work and study in its libraries, laboratories, galleries, and workshops.

The J. Paul Getty Museum

The J. Paul Getty Museum, which consists of six buildings around a central courtyard, houses a collection which has grown substantially since the days Mr. Getty began assembling a modest group of European paintings, a distinguished holding of Greek and Roman antiquities,

and a significant collection of 18th century French decorative arts. Today the Getty Center houses the Museum's collection of European drawings, paintings, illuminated manuscripts, sculpture, and decorative arts; and American and European photography.

The Getty's **paintings** collection is on view under natural light upstairs in the North, East, and West pavilions. Though the paintings collection was begun by Mr. Getty himself in the 1930s, it was not until after his death that the collection grew significantly. Today the collection encompasses nearly 450 paintings from 1300-1900, of which about 85 percent are on view. Areas of particular strength include the Northern Italian Renaissance, Baroque painting from Italy and Flanders; Dutch painting of the 17th century; and French painting of the 18th and 19th centuries.

The West Pavilion also houses the **Department of Photographs**, which recently expanded its exhibition space from 1,700 to 7,000 square feet. The department holds one of the world's preeminent collections of photographs from all over the world, dating from the its earliest days to the present, and has made the Getty, and Los Angeles, an important center for the study of photographs.

Also in the West Pavilion are several galleries devoted to rotating exhibitions of the Getty's distinguished and growing collection of 800 European **drawings**. The collection traces the history of Western drawing through major sheets by artists such Leonard do Vinci, Michelangelo, Rembrandt, Fragonard, Van Gogh, and Seurat.

The North Pavilion of the Getty Center is home to one of the most ambitious programs for the display of **manuscripts** in the world, exhibiting illuminated books on a rotating basis year-round. The manuscripts collection comprises masterpieces of Ottonian, Byzantine, Romanesque, Gothic, International style, and Renaissance illumination found in manuscripts made in Germany, France, Belgium, Italy, England, Spain, Poland, and the eastern Mediterranean.

The North Pavilion also houses European **sculpture**, and was recently renovated to provide a new state-of-the-art home for the collection. The galleries also include selected paintings, drawings and manuscripts alongside the Museum's collection of sculpture and decorative arts.

In addition to the stunning sculpture on display inside the Museum, legendary film producer Ray Stark and his wife Fran recently donated 28 modern outdoor sculptures now on view throughout the Museum's grounds. The 20th century sculptures were integrated with the environment and architecture to create a dramatic outdoor art experience, particularly in the

new Fran and Ray Stark sculpture garden near the tram departure area at the bottom of the hill.

The East Pavilion is home to the Getty's **French 17th- and 18th-century decorative arts** collections—one of Mr. Getty's particular passions—which ranks among the foremost in the world. Paintings from the collection are also on view in the decorative arts galleries. In addition, the East Pavilion features the **Family Room**, a place for families with children of all ages to discover a world of wonders, delights, and hands-on activities.

The Getty Research Institute

The Getty Research Institute (GRI) houses one of the world's largest art and architecture research libraries and a special collection of rare materials that includes the world's largest repository of video art. The library is open to the public, and its more than one million volumes are available to scholars, serving as an unparalleled international resource.

Its special collections are shared with the public in frequent exhibitions in the GRI's intimate gallery space. The GRI hosts dozens of visiting scholars each year, who conduct research and public lectures on a single theme.

The Getty Conservation Institute

The Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) works internationally to advance conservation practice in the visual arts—broadly interpreted to include objects, collections, architecture, and sites. The GCI serves the conservation community through scientific research, education and training, model field projects, and the dissemination of the results of both its own work and the work of others in conservation.

The GCI carries out its work in scientific laboratories at the Getty Center and in the field. In the laboratories, projects include exploring ways to reduce the damaging effects of light on sensitive works of art while sufficiently illuminating these works for the museum visitor. In another project, GCI scientists are researching modern paint materials in order to better preserve modern works of art: this research is helping to identify the enormous diversity in pigments and binders used in modern paints and evaluating various methods and techniques for cleaning works created with these complex materials.

From local field projects in Los Angeles to collaborations in China, Egypt, and Tunisia, the GCI works with a wide range of local, national, and international partners. Currently involved in more than 20 field projects on nearly every continent, the GCI, in all its endeavors,

focuses on the creation and delivery of knowledge that will benefit the professionals and organizations responsible for the conservation of the world's cultural heritage.

The Getty Foundation

The Getty Foundation fulfills the philanthropic mission of the Getty Trust by supporting individuals and institutions committed to advancing the understanding and preservation of the visual arts locally and throughout the world. Through strategic grants and programs undertaken in collaboration with the Museum, GRI, and GCI, the Foundation works to strengthen art history and conservation around the world, increase access to museum and archival collections, and develop current and future leaders in the visual arts.

Among the Foundation's current local initiatives is Pacific Standard Time: Art in L.A. 1945-1980. The initiative aims to document the history of art in Los Angeles in the post-World War II decades and to bring it to a wider audience through a series of more than 20 related exhibitions taking place across Southern California in 2011-2012. Since 1993, another local program -- the heralded Multicultural Undergraduate Internship program -- has trained more than 2,000 college undergraduates in museums and visual arts organizations.

The Foundation's work is also distinguished by its international focus, over the years providing support for projects on seven continents. For example, for more than 20 years the Foundation has assisted programs that train museum professionals in sub-Saharan Africa.

###

MEDIA CONTACT: Getty Communications
310-440-7360
communications@getty.edu

The J. Paul Getty Trust is an international cultural and philanthropic institution devoted to the visual arts that features the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Getty Research Institute, the Getty Conservation Institute, and the Getty Foundation. The J. Paul Getty Trust and Getty programs serve a varied audience from two locations: the Getty Center in Los Angeles and the Getty Villa in Malibu.

Visiting the Getty Center:

The Getty Center is open Tuesday through Friday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. It is closed Monday and major holidays. Admission to the Getty Center is always free. Parking is \$15 per car, but free after 5pm on Saturdays and for evening events throughout the week. No reservation is required for parking or general admission. Reservations are required for event seating and groups of 15 or more. Please call 310-440-7300 (English or Spanish) for reservations and information. The TTY line for callers who are deaf or hearing impaired is 310-440-7305. The Getty Center is at 1200 Getty Center Drive, Los Angeles, California

Additional information is available at *www.getty.edu*.