

GETTY STATEMENT ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

In keeping with its commitment to diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion, Getty resolutely endorses the principle of freedom of speech, thought, and expression in all areas of human endeavor, including public debate, scholarship, and the visual and performing arts. Getty is committed to the free creation and wide dissemination of the arts as critical to a healthy and vibrant society. Support for art, and artists and their work, extends equally to those who display, study, interpret, conserve, and encounter it.

Getty's public educational mission provides people around the world with tools to access, learn about, research, and otherwise engage with the arts, empowering them to formulate their own thoughts, opinions, and interpretations, and to add their own voices and perspectives to a global dialogue. While Getty presents its collections, exhibitions, research materials, and projects in historical and other informative contexts, Getty takes no institutional position on how these wide-ranging materials are to be received or interpreted.

It is expected and welcome that people of many backgrounds will have varying, divergent, and conflicting perspectives on the materials Getty shares. Getty is committed to providing an open environment for everyone to explore various viewpoints, exploration that can itself result in moving experiences with art.

Getty's commitment to diversity and inclusion also requires civility and respect in support of the free expression of multiple viewpoints. Getty does not protect direct threats, harassment, or other speech that falls outside the boundaries of the First Amendment. At the same time, Getty will not accede to the impulse, however well intentioned, of seeking to prevent discomfort, dissent, or offense that members of our community or the public may feel when confronted with certain material in our collections or programs.

Only in maintaining institutional neutrality, and actively promoting a civil space that welcomes a broad range of viewpoints, can Getty and other arts institutions help to uphold the universal rights to freedom of speech, scholarship, and artistic expression. These are precious rights, essential to learning and to the free production of knowledge and art; Getty is actively committed to fostering them.

