

Getty News

GETTY HISTORY AND TIMELINE



History of Getty

Getty is the legacy of the businessman and art collector J. Paul Getty (1892–1976) who held the view that art is a civilizing influence in society.

Throughout his adult life, Getty took steps to make art available for the public's education and enjoyment. Starting in 1948, he gave significant pieces from his personal collection to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. In 1953, he established the J. Paul Getty Museum Trust. The following year he opened the J. Paul Getty Museum in

his ranch house in Malibu (today, Pacific Palisades), periodically exhibiting his Greek and Roman antiquities, 18th-century French furniture, and European paintings.

Fascinated by the classical world, in 1974 he built a Roman-styled villa now called the Getty Villa near the ranch house to serve as a museum for his growing art collection and provide the public greater access.

Getty died in 1976, leaving most of his fortune to the museum he founded. Charged with carrying out Getty's wishes that the Trust provide for "the diffusion of artistic and general knowledge," the Board of Trustees embarked on years of research and deliberation to lay the foundation for an institution that could serve all facets of the art world, creating research, conservation, and philanthropic programs in addition to the original museum. Reflecting this expanded mission, the Trust's name was legally changed to the J. Paul Getty Trust in 1983.

To support collaboration among the Getty's programs in pursuit of the larger mission, the Trust broke ground on a new campus in Brentwood. The Getty Center housed an expanded collection including manuscripts, drawings, photographs and contemporary sculptures in addition to the paintings, decorative arts and sculpture that Mr. Getty collected during his lifetime.

The Getty Center became home to the Getty Conservation Institute, Getty Research Institute, and Getty Foundation, in addition to the Museum, all of which support the Getty mission at home and all over the world.

The original J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu was renovated and renamed the Getty Villa in 2006. The Villa became home to one of the world's most prominent collections of antiquities and served as a center of scholarship and conservation, providing an intimate setting designed to make the ancient world come alive for visitors.



J. Paul Getty photographed by Yousuf Karsh, 1964. Research Library, the Getty Research Institute. Photo by Yousuf Karsh, © The Estate of Yousuf Karsh

Jean Paul Getty (1892–1976)

Born in Minneapolis on December 15, 1892, Jean Paul Getty moved with his family to California in 1905. He attended the University of Southern California and the University of California at Berkeley before enrolling at Oxford University in London, earning a degree in economics and political science in 1914. At 21, he joined his father in the family oil business and soon made his own fortune. Over the years, Getty expanded his empire, holding interests in hundreds of enterprises beyond Getty Oil, including hotels, real estate, and restaurants. In 1957, *Fortune* magazine named him the world's richest person.

In addition to his talent for business, Getty harbored a passion for art, which he began collecting in the 1930s. He was fascinated with antiquities, and his collection of classical art soon grew to become one of the finest in the country. He housed his collection at Sutton Place, his residence in the United Kingdom, and also at his Malibu ranch, which he opened to the public in 1954 as the first J. Paul Getty Museum.

J. Paul Getty died in 1976 at the age of 83 in England, where he had lived for nearly 25 years. He never saw the Malibu museum that

bore his name, although he oversaw its construction closely.

His will, which calls for “the diffusion of artistic and general knowledge,” led to the creation of the J. Paul Getty Trust, one of the largest supporters of the visual arts in the world, with programs in exhibitions, conservation, research, and grantmaking.

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN GETTY HISTORY

1931: J. Paul Getty buys his first notable work of art, a Dutch landscape by Jan van Goyen. His collection continues to grow, most notably in antiquities and French decorative arts.

1953: J. Paul Getty Museum Trust is established

1954: J. Paul Getty Museum opens to the public, with limited hours, in Mr. Getty's ranch house in Pacific Palisades

1968: Mr. Getty conceives and plans the Getty Villa, to be modeled after a first-century Roman country house

1970: Construction commences on the Getty Villa

1974: Getty Villa opens

1976: J. Paul Getty dies, bequeathing the bulk of his estate, including \$660 million in Getty oil stock, to the J. Paul Getty Trust

1982: Getty Research Institute established

1984: Getty Foundation established (known initially as the Getty Grant Program)

1985: Getty Conservation Institute established

1989: Construction of Getty Center commences

1997: Getty Villa closes for renovation

1997: Getty Center opens

2006: Getty Villa reopens

2006: New Center for Photographs opens at the Getty Center in the Museum's West Pavilion

2007: New drawings galleries open at the Getty Center in the Museum's West Pavilion

2007: Installation of Stark Collection of contemporary and modern sculptures at the Getty Center

2011: The Getty launches Pacific Standard Time: Art in LA 1945-1980, an unprecedented region-wide collaboration with more than 40 art institutions exploring the artistic legacy of postwar Southern California

2012: The Getty Research Portal is launched, a virtual library of art history texts now providing online access to more than 100,000 volumes

2013: The Getty launches its Open Content Program, making public domain artwork in the Getty's collections freely available for any use. The number of images available continues to grow.

2013: The Getty Research Institute triples its exhibition space at the Getty Center and launches an ambitious exhibition schedule

2013: The Getty awards the first Getty Medal, now given annually to distinguished individuals to honor their extraordinary contributions to the practice, understanding and support of the arts.

2014: Getty Publications launches its Virtual Library with more than 250 titles spanning its forty-year publishing history, freely available online. More books are added annually.



2016: The Getty launches Art + Ideas, a regular podcast featuring J. Paul Getty Trust President and CEO James Cuno in conversation with creative thinkers about their work.

2017: The Getty launches Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA, an even larger collaboration with more than 60 partners exploring Latin American and Latino art

2017: Getty Villa undergoes reinstallation project but remains open during construction

2018: Getty Villa fully reopens with newly installed permanent collection galleries

MEDIA CONTACT:

Getty Communications
(310) 440-7360
communications@getty.edu

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Getty is a leading global arts organization committed to the exhibition, conservation, and understanding of the world's artistic and cultural heritage. Working collaboratively with partners around the globe, the Getty Foundation, Getty Conservation Institute, Getty Museum and Getty Research Institute are all dedicated to the greater understanding of the relationships between the world's many cultures. The Los Angeles-based J. Paul Getty Trust and Getty programs share art, knowledge, and resources online at Getty.edu and welcome the public for free at the Getty Center and the Getty Villa.

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. Admission to the Getty Center is always free. Parking rates vary. 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.

Same-day parking at both Museum locations (Getty Center and Getty Villa) is available for one fee through the Getty's Pay Once, Park Twice program. Visit the Museum Information Desk at the Center or the Villa to obtain a coupon good for same-day complimentary parking at the other site.

Additional information is available at www.getty.edu.

Sign up for e-Getty at www.getty.edu/subscribe to receive free monthly highlights of events at the Getty Center and the Getty Villa via e-mail, or visit www.getty.edu for a complete calendar of public programs.

Visiting the Getty Villa

The Getty Villa is open Wednesday through Monday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed Tuesdays, Thanksgiving, December 25 (Christmas Day), and January 1.

Admission to the Getty Villa is always free, but a ticket is required for admission. Tickets can be ordered in advance, or on the day of your visit, at www.getty.edu/visit or at (310) 440-7300. Parking rates vary. Groups of 15 or more must make reservations by phone. For more information, call (310) 440-7300 (English or Spanish); (310) 440-7305 (TTY line for the deaf or hearing impaired). The Getty Villa is at 17985 Pacific Coast Highway, Pacific Palisades, California. Same-day parking at both Museum locations (Getty Center and Getty Villa) is available for \$15 through the Getty's Pay Once, Park Twice program.

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