Getty Exhibitions

Assyria: Palace Art of Ancient Iraq
October 2, 2019 – September 5, 2022
Getty Villa Museum
Assyrian kings in the ninth to seventh centuries BC decorated their palaces with masterful relief sculptures that represent a high point of Mesopotamian art, both for their artistic quality and sophistication and for their vivid depictions of warfare, rituals, mythology, hunting, and other aspects of Assyrian court life. The importance of these ancient treasures has only increased with the recent destruction, by ISIS, of many of the reliefs that remained in Iraq. The works in this exhibition represent an exceptional loan from the British Museum in London.

Mesopotamia: Civilization Begins
April 21 – August 16, 2021
Getty Villa Museum
Mesopotamia—the “land between the rivers” in modern-day Iraq—was home to the ancient Sumerians, Babylonians and Assyrians. Among their many achievements are the creation of the earliest known script (cuneiform), the formation of the first cities, the development of advanced astronomical and mathematical knowledge, and spectacular artistic and literary achievements. The exhibition covers three millennia from the first cities in about 3200 BC to Alexander the Great’s conquest of Babylon in 331 BC. Organized with the Musée du Louvre, Paris.

Photo Flux: Unshuttering L.A.
May 25, 2021 – October 10, 2021
Getty Center Museum
Photographs by 35 Los Angeles-based artists challenge ideals of beauty, representation, cultural capital, and objectivity. The artists in this exhibition, primarily people of color, have radically transformed photography to express their own aesthetics, identities, and narratives. Their work is foundational for an emerging generation of artists participating in the Getty Unshuttered program, which engages teens to seek photography as a platform to amplify social topics that resonate in their own lives. Guest curated by jill moniz.

Silk and Swan Feathers: A Luxurious 18th-Century Armchair
May 25, 2021 – July 31, 2022
Getty Center Museum
The product of several craftsmen including a joiner (woodworker) and an upholsterer, this extraordinary French armchair embodies the era’s refined sense of comfort and style. Made in Paris for an elite patron, its sumptuous appearance is striking, from its deep, brocaded-silk cushion stuffed with swan and goose feathers to the gold foil on its brass tacks. Despite its fragility, the chair has survived nearly unaltered over the centuries.
Power, Justice, and Tyranny in the Middle Ages
May 25, 2021 – August 15, 2021
Getty Center Museum

Medieval power structures included royal courts, the church, city governments, and even universities. Although positions of authority were usually inherited, leaders were expected to embrace justice, a virtue associated with godly rule, and tyranny, a vice that ensured downfall and chaos. Social and legal hierarchies exposed in manuscript illumination underscore the tenuous place of women, the poor, and other “out-groups.” Examples of good and bad government reveal the constant struggle between base human instincts and loftier ideals.

Artists as Collectors
May 25, 2021– September 12, 2021
Getty Center Museum

Artists were the earliest and greatest collectors of drawings. Celebrated painters including Edgar Degas, Thomas Lawrence, and Giorgio Vasari were passionate collectors, and their appetites for drawings by old and contemporary masters compelled them to acquire exceptional examples of draftsmanship by artists such as Delacroix, Raphael, and Rembrandt. Not just a tool for the making of works of art, drawings were valued as intellectual property, coveted rarities, and powerful status symbols.

Mario Giacomelli: Figure|Ground
June 29 – October 10, 2021
Getty Center Museum

Born into poverty and self-taught as a photographer, Mario Giacomelli (1925–2000) lived his entire life in Senigallia, along Italy's Adriatic coast. Soon after purchasing his first camera in 1953, he began creating humanistic portrayals of people in their natural environments and dramatic abstractions of the landscapes. Rendered in high contrast black and white, his photographs are often gritty and raw, but always intensely personal.

The Expanded Landscape
June 29 – October 10, 2021
Getty Center Museum

The contemporary photographers in this exhibition create large-scale works that expand our understanding of what landscape photography can be. Like Mario Giacomelli, whose work is on view in the concurrent exhibition Mario Giacomelli: Figure|Ground, they favor graphically abstract compositions, elevated vantage points that eliminate the horizon, experimental techniques, or personal relationships with a specific landscape. Among the photographers featured are Virginia Behan and Laura McPhee, Hai Bo, Susan Derges, and Richard Misrach.
In Focus: Protest  
**June 29 – October 10, 2021**  
**Getty Center Museum**  
We are reminded frequently of the power of photographs to propel action and inspire change. During demonstrations photographers take to the streets to record fast-moving events. At other times they bear witness to daily injustices, helping to make them more widely known. This exhibition of images made during periods of social struggle in the United States highlights the myriad roles protest photographs play in shaping our understanding of American life.

Paolo Veneziano: Art and Devotion in 14th-Century Venice  
**July 13 – October 3, 2021**  
**Getty Center Museum**  
Paolo Veneziano led the premier painter’s workshop in late medieval Venice, producing work ranging from large complex altarpieces to small paintings intended for personal devotion. This focused exhibition reunites panels that originally formed a larger ensemble but are today scattered across different collections. This reconstruction, together with his other paintings, are set against the backdrop of the city’s uniquely cosmopolitan visual culture.

Transcending Time: The Medieval Book of Hours  
**August 31, 2021–February 20, 2022**  
**Getty Center Museum**

Manuscripts known as “books of hours” were among the most widely produced and used during the Middle Ages. These decorated prayer books not only structured time for their readers (over a day, a year, and a lifetime) but their creation reveals an increasing demand for private and personalized Christian devotion. Featuring masterpieces of medieval illumination from the permanent collection, this exhibition offers glimpses into the daily lives of their readers, the material features of luxury manuscripts, and the thriving late medieval book market.

Fluxus Means Change: Jean Brown’s Avant-Garde Archive  
**September 14, 2021–January 2, 2022**  
**Getty Research Institute Galleries, Getty Center**

The Jean Brown Collection of Dada, Surrealism, and Fluxus was one of the first comprehensive collections on twentieth-century art at the Getty Research Institute. From Marcel Duchamp and George Maciunas to the international network of artists with whom she corresponded, this exhibition reveals Jean Brown’s intuitive and innovative collecting strategies as well as the relationships she saw among the works, connecting earlier avant-garde art to Fluxus, artists’ books, mail art, and multiples.

Holbein: Capturing Character in the Renaissance  
**October 19, 2021–January 9, 2022**  
**Getty Center Museum**

The versatile German artist Hans Holbein the Younger created captivating portraits for a wide range of patrons, including scholars, statesmen, and courtiers, in 16th-century Basel and Tudor England. Holbein’s compelling drawings and paintings, enriched by inscriptions and evocative
objects, offer eloquent visual statements of personal identity. Explore the splendid Renaissance culture of erudition, self-definition, luxury, and wit in the first major presentation of Holbein’s art in the United States.

Co-organized by the Getty Museum and the Morgan Library & Museum.

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**Getty Highlights: 19th-Century Paintings and Sculptures**  
*October 19, 2021–January 2, 2022*  
*Getty Center Museum*

Works by Van Gogh, Monet, Rodin, and many others feature in a special presentation of 19th-century European paintings and sculptures from the permanent collection. Prompted by the temporary closure of the West Pavilion paintings galleries for renovations, this exhibition sparks surprising new dialogues between works that are normally shown in separate galleries because of their date, national origin, or style.

**Rubens: Picturing Antiquity**  
*November 10, 2021–January 24, 2022*  
*Getty Villa Museum*

A passion for the art and literature of classical antiquity inspired the dynamic Flemish painter Peter Paul Rubens (1577–1640). Presented amidst the antiquities collection at the Getty Villa, this exhibition juxtaposes the artist’s exhilarating drawings, oil sketches, and monumental paintings with rarely shown ancient objects, including exquisite gems owned by Rubens himself. Heroic nudes, fierce hunts, splendid military processions, and Bacchic revels attest to the artist’s extraordinary ability to translate an array of sources into new subjects.

**La Surprise: Watteau in Los Angeles**  
*November 23, 2021–February 20, 2022*  
*Getty Center Museum*

Graceful scenes of courtship, music and dance, strolling lovers and theatrical characters: this is the imaginary world conjured by the greatest French painter and draftsman of the 18th century, Antoine Watteau. Los Angeles is home to an extraordinary group of Watteau’s works. This focused exhibition, marking the 300th anniversary of the artist’s death, brings together a dozen of them from public and private collections and celebrates the Getty’s recent acquisition of an exquisite example: the painting *La Surprise*.

**Grand Design: 17th-Century French Drawings**  
*February 8, 2022–May 1, 2022*  
*Getty Center Museum*

The visual arts flourished in 17th-century France during a period known as the *Grand Siècle* or “great age.” Presenting works from the Getty collection made by French draftsmen across the century, this exhibition includes drawings made for many different purposes: designs for ceiling paintings, altarpieces, sculptures, and prints; sketches made outdoors; and academic studies drawn in the studio. Together they testify to an era of intellectual striving, courtly splendor, and violent political upheaval.
Nicolas Poussin was the most influential French painter of the 17th century, and an artist fascinated by dance. Portraying dancing nymphs and satyrs, he drew inspiration from ancient Greek and Roman sculpture but evolved a style all his own. He envisioned dramatic—even violent—action with a choreographer’s eye. This exhibition considers Poussin’s dancing pictures through the dual lenses of art history and contemporary dance, establishing a dialogue between the old master’s work and new dances on film by LA choreographers.

By definition, the medium of photography—a word that means “light writing”—maintains a close relationship with writing. This one-gallery exhibition, drawn largely from the Getty’s collection, considers how various photographers active since the 1970s have represented the connection between writing and photography in images that showcase the performative nature of these mediums.

Imogen Cunningham (American, 1883–1976) enjoyed a long career as a photographer, creating a diverse body of work that underscores her vision, versatility, and commitment to the medium. The first major retrospective in the United States in more than 35 years, this exhibition brings together her insightful portraits, elegant flower and plant studies, poignant street pictures, and groundbreaking nudes in a visual celebration of Cunningham’s immense contribution to the history of 20th-century photography.

For over a millennium, from around 650 B.C. to A.D. 650, ancient Greece and Rome had a tumultuous relationship with their neighbors to the east: the Medes, Persians, Parthians, and Sasanians of ancient Iran. This exhibition explores the artistic and cultural connections between these rival powers through royal sculpture, spectacular luxury objects, religious images, and historical documents, assembled from major museums in the United States, Europe, and the Middle East.