President’s Message

D uring the last few months, I have been deeply moved by the heartfelt call from our staff and from the community to make Getty a better place—a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive place. I have learned so much from everyone. At an online summit in August, I heard from more than 150 staff members—all volunteers on Getty’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Council and on program and department DEI Task Forces—about their collective efforts so far. They have accomplished a great deal in very little time, and are clearly dedicated to this essential work. On behalf of the entire senior leadership, I thank them.

Meanwhile the Getty leadership team, two dozen of us, have been meeting every Monday since mid-July. During these meetings we spend at least an hour with the excellent Jones Consulting team, discussing topics such as white culture and privilege and their affect on our lives and work. We have also heard many suggestions from staff about how we can improve the Getty going forward, and we’ve likely made much faster progress on our DEI work because of this respite.

The archive of trailblazing LA architect Paul Revere Williams.

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Know that this is only the first iteration of a plan that will continuously evolve with the input from staff and members of local BIPOC-led organizations, and from what we might learn from peer institutions’ work and experience. We still have lots of work ahead of us. Making true, lasting change requires a collaborative effort, especially as we remain separated from one another due to the pandemic. That separation will continue a bit longer. I’m sorry to say. Although we had hoped to open our doors in August, and dozens of people worked hard to make that happen, we recently decided that our sites will not reopen to the public before January. This was an informed decision by our COVID-19 Task Force in consideration of the Public Health Department’s guidelines. The good news is that this “down time” has proven useful in several ways. Free from monitoring a constantly changing pandemic landscape, we’ve been able to put more energy and care into our upcoming exhibitions and programs. We’ve pivoted to creating numerous online offerings—stories, exhibitions, and classes that will be accessible to anyone in the world at any time. And we’ve likely made much faster progress on our DEI work because of this respite.

Until we can open safely, please stay part of our Getty community through this magazine and the many blog posts, online exhibitions, and podcasts on our website. I can’t wait to see you again soon.
NEW INTERNSHIPS FOSTER DIVERSITY IN ART CONSERVATION

GETTY HAS LAUNCHED A PILOT PROGRAM to address the lack of cultural diversity in the field of art conservation. The Post-Baccalaureate Conservation Internships offer one-year paid internships to recent college graduates from culturally diverse backgrounds to prepare them for postgraduate study in the conservation field. The program’s first recipients are Cheyenne Caraway, Kiera Hammond, and Michelle Tenggara, who began working remotely this fall. Workplans and scheduling remain flexible given ongoing developments related to COVID-19, but the group is doing virtual rotations among conservation studios at the Getty Center and Villa. In addition, the interns can take courses through Santa Monica College and receive career mentoring from Ellen Pearlstein, professor in the UCLA/Getty Program in the Conservation of Ethnic and Archaeological Materials and Getty’s official advisor for the program.

The Post-Bacc interns are scheduled to then begin residencies in the conservation studios of the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens; Fowler Museum; LACMA; and Autry Museum of the American West. While these partners remain strongly committed to the program, decisions about how this aspect of the internships will unfold will be made further into the academic year given the unpredictability of the pandemic.

“The Post-Bacc internships were created to provide an essential rung in the ladder toward a conservation career,” says Antoine Wilmering, who trained as a conservator and is now a Senior Program Officer at the Getty Foundation overseeing conservation initiatives. According to Wilmering, a graduate degree is essential to securing a job in art conservation, yet only a few graduate programs exist. That makes competition for those few spots intense, and applicants often bolster their credentials by completing a range of prerequisite science courses and almost a year of pre-program internship training, which is often unpaid. “Graduate program administrators say these realities have produced a conservation field that is neither culturally diverse nor equitable. But we’re confident that the Post-Bacc internships will help participants overcome these barriers and gain exposure to the skills needed for a conservation career.”

The program builds on the Foundation’s longstanding Getty Marrow Undergraduate Internship program, which for nearly 30 years has offered paid internships at museums and arts organizations to undergraduates of underrepresented cultural backgrounds. The Post-Bacc internships are administered by the Getty Foundation and operated in partnership with the other Getty programs. Support for the launch of this pilot program was provided by the Getty Patron’s Program.

GETTY BRINGS ART EDUCATION INTO THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

EVEN IF K-12 CLASSES CAN’T COME TO GETTY this year, the Getty can come to them. This fall the J. Paul Getty Museum launched Getty Virtual Art Explorations, a teaching program that provides live arts education online. Following the success of a virtual pilot program this summer with Los Angeles Unified School District and Inner-City Education Foundation, the Getty Education team has expanded the program to additional school districts and homeschool networks in Southern California.

According to Getty educators William Załuski and Kelly Jane Smith Fatten, the interpretation of art strengthens perception, expression, and imagination, and develops the skills to describe and analyze what one perceives. Also, the online classroom setting is a communal one, and community art experiences can increase the understanding not just of art, but of one’s self and others, offering balanced experiences that benefit the collective psychology.

 Getty educators believe that the students of Los Angeles are the number-one priority of the greater community at large, and are delighted to offer what they do best as a part of students’ experience in these new times.

 Getty Virtual Art Explorations is an interactive, collection-based, object-focused experience with students. The program uses a discovery-based teaching approach, and was created to provide arts education in the virtual classroom. Using Zoom, Getty can also extend its reach both locally and globally, opening new doors and connecting with future visitors. Educators can sign up for Getty Virtual Art Explorations through Getty’s website, getty.edu.
**Virtual Preview: Persia: Ancient Iran and the Classical World**

The J. Paul Getty Museum and the Farhang Foundation hosted Patrons and supporters on July 19 for a virtual preview of *Persia: Ancient Iran and the Classical World*. As part of Getty’s Ancient Worlds Now: A Future for the Past initiative, the exhibition will feature more than 100 priceless treasures from Persia’s ancient past, many of them never before seen on the West Coast. Getty Museum Director Timothy Potts and Senior Curator of Antiquities Jeffrey Spier highlighted pieces from the exhibition, giving viewers a sense of the craftsmanship, artistry, and rich cultural traditions of a great world power in antiquity, one that had a profound influence on Greece and Rome.

Major support for *Persia: Ancient Iran and the Classical World* is provided by Elizabeth and Bruce Dunlevie and the Spogli Family Foundation. The Farhang Foundation is the Exhibition Cultural Partner. The exhibition is scheduled to open at the Getty Villa in April 2022.

1. Farhang Foundation Chairman Hormoz Ameri
2. Getty Museum Director Timothy Potts
3. Exhibition curator Jeffrey Spier presents the Scabrooid with a Persian King Fighting a Greek Hoplite gem.
5. Musical performance by Chloe Pourmorady

**Getty Off-Center Launches**

 Getty Off-Center, a new Getty Patron Program virtual series, kicked off its first event on August 4 with Jeanne Marie Teutonico, the Getty Conservation Institute’s (GCI) Associate Director, Strategy and Special Initiatives. Teutonico spoke about the GCI’s decade-long work at the Tomb of Tutankhamen in collaboration with Egypt’s Ministry of Antiquities. Accompanied by vibrant images—of the paintings that lined the 3,000-year-old tomb’s walls, conservators analyzing the composition of its structural elements, and visitors inside the chamber—the presentation covered challenges faced in this tumultuous period, the research that informed the chosen conservation methods, and the long-term outcomes of this project to preserve one of the world’s most captivating ancient sites. After the presentation, guests participated in a lively Q&A session.

6. Getty President and CEO Jim Cuno and Jeanne Marie Teutonico welcome Patrons and supporters to the first Getty Off-Center event.
7. A team of conservators works on the tomb’s wall paintings.

**Digital Miniseries: The ODDyssey**

This summer the Troubador Theater Company (“the Troubies”) presented *The ODDyssey*, a humorous take on Homer’s epic tale. Performed on Zoom and streamed on the Getty Museum’s YouTube channel, the five-episode series followed Odysseus as he navigated the perils of monsters, seductresses, and tantrum-throwing gods to reach his home and his suitor-swarmed wife Penelope. Inspired by the gridded Brady Bunch aesthetic of Zoom, the Troubies’ homemade props and boisterous musical antics attracted thousands of viewers of all ages. The Troubies, a self-described “no-holds-barred, Commedia Del Arte-flavored Los Angeles-based ensemble of actors, musicians, and comedians,” have been frequent collaborators with the Getty Villa’s theater program. Their unique mash-ups of classical epics with pop culture have delighted audiences at several Villa Theater Lab debuts and the 2016 Annual Outdoor Theater production, *Haunted House Party*. 

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1. Getty Museum Director Timothy Potts
2. Exhibition curator Jeffrey Spier
3. Getty Museum President and CEO Jim Cuno
4. Getty Off-Center Launches
5. Digital Miniseries: The ODDyssey

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**GETTY EVENTS**

- **Fall 2020**
- **2020 Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) and the Tomb of Tutankhamen**
- **Getty Watermark Series (GWS)**
- **Villa Theater Lab**
- **Haunted House Party**
You make it possible for us to do more than we can do alone, and we could not be more grateful. Whether serving on Getty Councils, supporting the Patron Program, furthering the Getty’s legacy through the J. Paul Getty Founder’s Society or providing philanthropic support, your contributions are furthering Getty’s important work.

Thank you to our community of donors

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Thank you to our community of donors

You are raising our exhibitions to new heights

You are growing our collections for the benefit of our many audiences

You are helping scholars rewrite art history

You are safeguarding magnificent cultural heritage sites

You are empowering students throughout our innovative education programs

Thank you for your generosity—and for your belief that art brings us together and illuminates our shared humanity.
Annelies Cosaert is a Getty Conservation Institute fellow working on the Managing Collection Environments initiative, a multi-year effort to keep artworks safe in too hot, too cold, too dry, or too wet places. She tells us about a current project in Chandigarh, India.

**WHEN I FIRST HEARD ABOUT** the Getty Conservation Institute’s (GCI) Managing Collection Environments (MCE) initiative, I was working in Belgium for contemporary artist Wim Delvoye developing a database for the artist’s studio. I admired the initiative’s focus on preventative conservation and sustainability, and how it connected the safety of collections with the environment of the museum, seeking solutions that will benefit the building, its occupants, and the collection. Improving their collection care will be done through research that examines the effect of the environment on art objects. We measure indoor environmental aspects such as temperature, relative humidity, and pollution. We take outdoor measurements via a weather station. To contextualize all this data, we observe the state of the collection and interview museum personnel and stakeholders about damage that has occurred over time and in the past. I love working within an unfamiliar context. It is an interesting way to learn more about people and their culture, and why they care about these art objects. Still, given our limited time on site, it remains challenging to develop a deeper understanding of our Indian peers’ views—whether on the role of museums, how conservation is defined and applied, what kind of change is acceptable, and how cultural heritage is valued.

This fellowship has given me the opportunity to witness the power of interdisciplinary collaboration. Not only does collaboration broaden one’s views, it makes things actually happen.

This experience has also given me some great friends. Being an ex-pat can be lonely, but I have had an amazing time during and after work with my colleagues, in particular two other GCI fellows. Our personalities, educational background, and cultural background might be different, but our openness and tolerance have led to a wonderful closeness that will continue well after my time at Getty.

Annelies Cosaert, a native of Belgium, received her Master’s degree in Conservation and Restoration with honors from the University of Antwerp in 2014. A series of short internships led to a post-graduate internship at the Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage where she was employed in the department of preventive conservation. Cosaert has also worked for the Flemish government and Studio Wim Delvoye.

**MY RESEARCH PROJECT**

One of the projects I’m working on right now takes me to the Government Museum and Art Gallery in Chandigarh, India. The city of Chandigarh was constructed as the new, utopian capital of the Indian Punjab region after the British recognized Indian independence and the old capital, Lahore, became part of Pakistan. The studio of pioneering modern architect Le Corbusier was chosen to deliver designs for the new city and for several of its most prominent buildings, including the museum.

The building’s façade, intended to hide the treasures inside from outside views, looks rather plain. But pass through the front doors and you enter an architectural wonderland. Skylights let light flow into the interior, and mezzanines frame the exhibition halls as art pieces themselves. Furniture (by Pierre Jeanneret, Le Corbusier’s cousin) and display cases (by Ratna Fabri, a leading interior and furniture designer), are made to harmoniously meld exhibition hall and collection. The building’s passive climate control includes wing-shaped aeration that allow air to circulate naturally and cool the indoors, especially during the hot and humid season.

Together with the Conserving Modern Architecture Initiative team, we are helping our partners in India improve the environment of the museum, seeking solutions that will benefit the building, its occupants, and the collection. Improving their collection care will be done through research that examines the effect of the environment on art objects. We measure indoor environmental aspects such as temperature, relative humidity, and pollution. We take outdoor measurements via a weather station. To contextualize all this data, we observe the state of the collection and interview museum personnel and stakeholders about damage that has occurred over time and in the past.

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**Marie Svoboda, conservator of antiquities at the Getty Villa Museum, tells us about the book she’s been rereading during lockdown.**

Through an unprecedented lockdown, a woman ends her relationship with a love-struck poet to marry a doctor devoted to eradicating cholera; but this first love waits 50 years to be with her again. My favorite part, then and now, is probably when the lovers are trapped together on a riverboat during a cholera outbreak. The poet is feeling such an intense kind of passion, he is finally with the woman he loves, after waiting a lifetime, and he will sacrifice anything to keep traveling down the river with her.

In my youth I could relate to that kind of love, and to the desire to completely immerse oneself in such a powerful emotion. The story filled me with hope and a sense of destiny, even as it dealt with so many painful issues, all relevant as my personal road to becoming a conservator was very challenging. Through my passion and deep desire to pursue this career, inside I remained inspired by the poet who never gave up what he wanted.

Now, during our own pandemic, I can uniquely understand the need for staying positive and making the best of every moment, no matter how trying things may seem. Reflecting on this book still transports me to a pivotal and exciting time in my life when I too was navigating a winding river that took me to unknown destinations, successes and failures, unprecedented fears, and bountiful joy.

Although I have read many wonderful novels and inspirational stories over the years, Love in the Time of Cholera by Gabriel García Márquez holds a special place in my heart. As the book’s many accolades attest, it is a masterful work of magical realism filled with dream-like imagery, soulful questions, and spiritual emotions. It manages to encompass all of life’s complexities—love, passion, loss, secrets, death, and the fear of death. More personally, the book always takes me back to the year I first read it, almost 30 years ago, a special time in my life when I traveled extensively, developed a passion for art, and discovered my eventual professional career.

I remember how delightful the book was to read—like unwinding a ball of yarn that gradually led me through the characters’ rich journeys. In the main plot, a woman ends her relationship with a love-struck poet to marry a doctor devoted to eradicating cholera; but this first love waits 50 years to be with her again. My favorite part, then and now, is probably when the lovers are trapped together on a riverboat during a cholera outbreak. The poet is feeling such an intense kind of passion, he is finally with the woman he loves, after waiting a lifetime, and he will sacrifice anything to keep traveling down the river with her. In my youth I could relate to that kind of love, and to the desire to completely immerse oneself in such a powerful emotion. The story filled me with hope and a sense of destiny, even as it dealt with so many painful issues, all relevant as my personal road to becoming a conservator was very challenging. Through my passion and deep desire to pursue this career, inside I remained inspired by the poet who never gave up what he wanted.

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*Photo: Yosi Pozeilov, Book cover © Penguin Books*
Meet Rita Gomez, lead preparator at the J. Paul Getty Museum and the woman who keeps works of art safe as they travel the world.

The gist of what I do: Like all preparators, my job is to ensure the safe and proper handling of any artwork while it moves from different areas within the museum. My job also includes working with objects that have been approved to travel on loan; I anticipate every move from wall to wall and pedestal to pedestal, if you will.

Mainly I manage the packing/unpacking shop and the crating shop. I work with my exceptionally talented team of preparators to crating objects, making them ready for travel. We also help pick up objects at the airport, and coordinate collection and potential acquisitions when they arrive at the museum. In the case of marble object from a confined, tight spot to get to its next venue, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. We were asked to travel with the piece, and I traveled in a truck with the piece from New York to San Francisco for three days.

Most challenging project: The Stela with Queen Ix Mucal Ahau, a relief built by the ancient Mayans, from the de Young Museum in San Francisco for the Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA Golders exhibition. She was made of limestone, not adhered together but mounted on a steel frame eight feet tall. I called it a 1,000-pound lollipop.

After its display at the Getty Museum it needed to get to its next venue, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. We were asked to travel with the piece, and I traveled in a truck with it from LA to New York for three days. When the exhibition closed, the Met flew me and my colleague Andrew Gavenova over to unpack the piece. When the packing was done, this time Andrew was the courier, so he traveled in a truck with the piece from New York to San Francisco for three days.

That project gave me the heebie-jeebies. You never know how rough the road conditions are going to be. But the main objective is to plan for what we know will happen to the piece on its journey, and for extremes—if it falls over or drops. We want the packing to hold that patient together, so it goes out and comes back unchanged.

What might surprise Getty visitors: We build seismic isolators, so if there’s an earthquake, the object remains still on its pedestal. The floor can move but the object stays in place and the isolator takes the ricochet, the slack, away from the object. They’re heavy—up to 3,000 pounds.

An artwork I love to show people: The sculpture Saint Ginés de la Jara by Luisa Boldrán, from about 1692. There is a big empty space in his robe, and we used to find pennies in there. I don’t know why people were compelled to throw coins in there. That guy was like a wishing well. But that’s one of the pieces I like to show because Boldrán was the first woman sculptor recorded in Spain, and she was also appointed as a sculptor to the royal court. I just think that is so significant.

Best part of my job: I love every aspect of it. Working on pieces like the Maya stela is like a toothache—youavor it and painful until it takes out. Then it’s such a relief. I love the coordination and problem-solving—like turning on the radio and getting really dirty building a crate—then, doing the finest of handling for delicate pieces like Roman glass and fine portraits. It’s like handling a big potato chip with paint on it.
early residential commissions during Los Angeles’s housing boom of the 1920s to landmark mid-century civic structures, the archive includes approximately 35,000 plans, 10,000 original drawings, blueprints, hand-colored renderings, vintage photographs, correspondence, and other materials.

Williams was the most significant African American architect of the 20th century, with especially strong ties to Southern California and the city of Los Angeles. A native Angeleno born in 1894 and orphaned by the age of four, Williams contributed greatly to the cultural landscape and design of Los Angeles. He was the first African American member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), its first African American Fellow, and ultimately its first African American Gold Medalist.

During his career, Williams overcame numerous race-based indignities. For instance, he learned to draw upside down in order to sketch for clients from across the table—for the benefit of any white clients who might have been uneasy sitting next to an African American. He also toured construction sites with hands clasped behind his back; from experience, he could never be sure every person at a construction site would shake a Black man’s hand. The ability to work within these conditions adds further resonance to the enduring significance of Williams’s legacy.

Williams’s prolific career spanned nearly six decades and more than 3,000 projects. He was known for Late Moderne design, which combines long horizontal lines and sleek curving forms, though he was fully versed in other architectural styles. His early work was primarily residential, and he designed legendary homes for leaders in business and entertainment such as Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, Bill “Bojangles” Robinson, Frank Sinatra, the E. L. Cord and Paley families, and Cary Grant. Though his later career included commercial, institutional, and public building projects, residential design was a perennial element of his work.

While Williams had a lasting impact on Southern California, he also worked on a large number of national and international projects, which notably included the 14-story addition to the Hotel Granada in Los Angeles.

The Getty Research Institute and the USC School of Architecture have teamed up to preserve and further Williams’s legacy. The archives are now being jointly acquired by Williams’s alma mater, the USC School of Architecture, and the Getty Research Institute, who will work together to make the archive accessible to students and other researchers and make possible many future exhibitions, programs, and publications about Williams.

The archive has been meticulously cared for by Karen Elyse Hudson, Williams’s granddaughter, who has published extensively on his work. Although many believe that Williams’s archive was destroyed in a fire that consumed Broadway Federal Savings & Loan during the 1992 Los Angeles civil unrest, most of the extensive archive was in a different location and is in excellent condition. With records from his

THE ARCHIVE OF LA ARCHITECT PAUL REVERE WILLIAMS

The Getty Research Institute and the USC School of Architecture have teamed up to preserve and further Williams’s legacy

By Amy Hood
Getty Senior Communications Specialist


FROM OUR BLOG

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in Bogotá and the design of the Hotel Nutihara in Medellín, both in Colombia. He was associate architect on the United Nations building in Paris, and Langston Terrace in Washington, DC, the first federally sponsored public housing in the country. Southern California was always his chief building ground, however.

Many of his projects—including the Music Corporation of America (MCA) headquarters (1939), the Ambassador Hotel’s renovation (1949), the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company Building (1949), refurbishments and additions to the Beverly Hills Hotel (1940–1970s), the Los Angeles County Courthouse (1951), Hillside Memorial Park (1951), Los Angeles International Airport (1960), Westwood Medical Center (1960–62), and the First African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church (1968)—became modernist fixtures of the Los Angeles cityscape, some resonating strongly within Los Angeles’s African American community: Golden State Mutual Life Insurance was the largest African American-owned insurance company in the western United States, holding the most significant institutional collection of African American art, while the First AME Church was home to the oldest Black congregation in Los Angeles.

Williams was the chief architect for the Pueblo del Rio neighborhood, located at 52nd Street and Long Beach Avenue in South Los Angeles and built to house African American defense industry workers in 1940. This mid-century project was designed by the Southeast Housing Architects, which included Richard Neutra, Gordon Kaufman, Adrian Wilson, and the firm of Wurdeman & Becket.

Williams retired in 1973, having received numerous accolades, including the AIA’s Award of Merit for the MCA Building in 1939, and the NAACP’s Spingarn Medal for his outstanding contributions as an architect and work with Los Angeles’s Black community in 1953. In 2017 he was posthumously awarded USC Architecture’s Distinguished Alumni Award. He died in 1980, at the age of 85.

Although the GRI and the USC School of Architecture co-own the archive, it will be housed at Getty. The GRI will oversee processing and conservation of the materials, which are in excellent condition. An extensive digitization effort will take several years and will ultimately make most of the archive accessible to scholars and others.

As the most significant and intact archive of an African American architect working in Southern California in the early and mid-20th century, the archive is a cornerstone for Getty’s African American Art History Initiative (AAAHI), launched in 2018. Williams’s archive expands the scope of visual culture represented in present and incoming collections at the GRI, including the Betye Saar Archive, the Johnson Publishing Company Archive, Robert Farris Thompson’s Library and Archive, and the Harry Drinkwater Photography Collection. The archive will join the GRI’s noteworthy Architectural Collections and its extensive holdings of Los Angeles-based 20th-century architects, such as Welton Becket, Pierre Koenig, John Lautner, Ray Kappe, Frank Israel, William Krisel, and Frank Gehry.

“Paul Williams was a trailblazing architect whose long career helped shape Los Angeles and Southern California,” says Getty Research Institute director Mary Miller. “His archive essentially tells the story of how the modern Southland was built. Its importance as an aesthetic and educational resource cannot be overstated.”
Aziza Chaouni, a Moroccan-born structural engineer and architect, is eager to share her fond memories of Sidi Harazem, a modernist thermal bath complex near Fez, Morocco. “I grew up visiting these ancient mineral waters with my grandmother,” she says. “At first I was a bit fearful of the imposing concrete structures, yet I quickly became enthralled with the constructed waterfalls, floating stairs suspended by thin cables, and mysterious pyramid-covered rooftops. There is little doubt my appreciation for modern architecture is indebted to those defining encounters.”

Designed by Jean-François Zevaco in 1958 following Morocco’s independence from France, Sidi Harazem, which sits near a magnesium-rich spring, reflected the young nation’s desire for recreational spaces that catered not only to citizens, but also to international tourists. But by the 1980s, the complex of pools, markets, bungalows, and a hotel had slid into disrepair, no longer popular with visitors who preferred beachside resorts.

In 2016, Chaouni received a Getty Foundation Keeping It Modern (KIM) architectural conservation grant to restore Sidi Harazem to the oasis it once was. “The project allowed us to change the perceptions of the locals, who went from seeing the baths as gray and sad to considering them an integral, and even beautiful, part of their history. Now the community acts as our number one ambassador.”

Chaouni’s tale is not unique. Many 20th-century buildings around the world have been forgotten, despite a growing appreciation for modern architecture. “These structures reflect a specific time in history, particularly the first half of the 20th century, when society experienced monumental shifts that led to new kinds of construction,” says Antoine Wilmering, the Getty Foundation program officer who oversees KIM. Massive urban growth and social change created the need for more housing, schools, and public buildings, he says, and modernism embraced these cultural changes, offering up technically advanced buildings that were uniquely functional, minimal, and accessible to the masses. “Modernism was fueled by idealism and the belief that social progress was not only worthwhile, but attainable. In short, modern architecture embodies human aspiration.”

But there’s a rub. Because of the modern movement’s twin commitments to experimental materials and innovative building techniques, many of its most significant architectural contributions are showing their age and facing uncertain futures if stewards fail to act. The Getty Foundation conceived Keeping It Modern in 2014 to ensure a future for these vulnerable structures, and has now supported the conservation of 72 buildings in 40 countries by funding critical research and planning activities that help stakeholders assess and articulate the historical value of a site.

How Getty’s Keeping It Modern initiative preserves 20th-century architecture, offers professionals new skills, and instills local pride

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Designed by Jean-François Zevaco in 1958 following Morocco’s independence from France, Sidi Harazem, which sits near a magnesium-rich spring, reflected the young nation’s desire for recreational spaces that catered not only to citizens, but also to international tourists. But by the 1980s, the complex of pools, markets, bungalows, and a hotel had slid into disrepair, no longer popular with visitors who preferred beachside resorts.

In 2016, Chaouni received a Getty Foundation Keeping It Modern (KIM) architectural conservation grant to restore Sidi Harazem to the oasis it once was. “The project allowed us to change the perceptions of the locals, who went from seeing the baths as gray and sad to considering them an integral, and even beautiful, part of their history. Now the community acts as our number one ambassador.”

Chaouni’s tale is not unique. Many 20th-century buildings around the world have been forgotten, despite a growing appreciation for modern architecture. “These structures reflect a specific time in history, particularly the first half of the 20th century, when society experienced monumental shifts that led to new kinds of construction,” says Antoine Wilmering, the Getty Foundation program officer who oversees KIM. Massive urban growth and social change created the need for more housing, schools, and public buildings, he says, and modernism embraced these cultural changes, offering up technically advanced buildings that were uniquely functional, minimal, and accessible to the masses. “Modernism was fueled by idealism and the belief that social progress was not only worthwhile, but attainable. In short, modern architecture embodies human aspiration.”

But there’s a rub. Because of the modern movement’s twin commitments to experimental materials and innovative building techniques, many of its most significant architectural contributions are showing their age and facing uncertain futures if stewards fail to act. The Getty Foundation conceived Keeping It Modern in 2014 to ensure a future for these vulnerable structures, and has now supported the conservation of 72 buildings in 40 countries by funding critical research and planning activities that help stakeholders assess and articulate the historical value of a site.

You’ve Got to Have a Plan Keeping It Modern focuses on the creation of conservation management plans that aren’t about the quick fix. Experts consider all aspects of a building—it’s history, original materials, and long-term use—trying to “future proof” the plans so that their recommendations or guidelines address not just the problems of tomorrow, but those of the next year or even decade.
While developing Sidi Harazem’s conservation management plan, Chaouni was able to undertake a broad educational campaign that encouraged locals to brainstorm how the baths could be repurposed. “I really wanted to connect with the community on a human level, so I invited them to tea, set up interviews with those who’d lived near the baths for decades, and developed collaborative design workshops—all so we could bring their voices into our decision-making,” says Shikha Jain, director at the heritage preservation organization DRONAH. Jain oversaw the first Keeping It Modern project in India, at the Gandhi Bhawan in Chandigarh. “The initiative’s ability to bring widespread attention to the values of conservation research and planning has ignited interest in the preservation of modern heritage worldwide and provided a valuable framework by which professionals can perform interventions and engage with one another.” Examples of such exchanges between professionals through the KIM network include a seminar in Sidi Harazem led by Chaouni and São Paulo-based architect Silvio Oksman (who was involved with a grant site in Brazil), at which eight KIM grantees from the Global South met with professionals from the Middle East and North Africa to discuss challenges they faced while conserving modern architectural heritage. A bilingual website (kimmhup.com) presents the ideas and case studies discussed at the seminar and a free publication, Modern Heritage Under Pressure.

2020 Grants Span the Globe

This past summer, the Getty Foundation awarded its seventh and final round of Keeping It Modern grants, and for the first time supported projects in Chile, Kuwait, Nigeria, Portugal, and Senegal. The grants solidify Keeping It Modern’s ambitions to provide models for the conservation of modern architecture at a global scale, particularly in regions where modern buildings are plentiful but their caretakers struggle to gain access to the best techniques for preservation and maintenance.

In one of the projects, Chaouni’s experience preserving Sidi Harazem will benefit a new outdoor site on the other side of the Saharan desert: a vast fairground complex in Senegal’s capital city of Dakar. The orbs have a remarkable shimmering quality thanks to 41,000 enameled metal discs adorning their surfaces. The project team will conduct a technical study to identify why some of the discs are detaching and develop conservation protocols for carrying out repairs and maintenance.

Tecton Buildings at Dudley Zoo and Castle, Dudley, West Midlands, United Kingdom (architects: Berthold Lubetkin and the Tecton Group, 1937)

In 1932, Soviet émigré Berthold Lubetkin cofounded the Tecton Group, an architectural practice that brought radical modernism to England. His concrete structures at the Dudley Zoo and Castle—with their curved concrete roofs, glass-windowed walls, and sleek, unornamented forms that mirror the slopes and hills of the surrounding landscape—are among the greatest surviving Tecton Group buildings in the world, and important examples of the early-modern movement in the UK. Today, some of the zoo’s Tecton buildings have deteriorated or are no longer in use, including the tropical bird and elephant houses. Building on a 2011 conservation management plan, the project team will use grant funds for concrete testing, structural surveys, and site investigations to restore more of the structures to full operation.
White Tower, Ekaterinburg, Russia (architect: Moisei Reisher, 1929–31)

A prime example of austere 1930s Russian constructivism, the White Tower of Ekaterinburg was once among the largest water towers in existence, soaring to 113 feet with a capacity of more than 180,000 gallons. It has sat idle since the 1960s, though, having been replaced by a centralized, higher-pressure hydraulic system. In 2012, the PODELNIKI architecture group, a non-profit organization founded by young local architects, began championing the tower’s conservation and reuse. Now, the Schusev State Museum of Architecture and PODELNIKI will lead the effort to develop a conservation management plan that could pave the way for the site’s reopening as a cultural center.

Obafemi Awolowo University, Ife-Ife, Nigeria (architect: Arieh Sharon, 1962–76)

Merging Bauhaus principles with tropical modernism—a style that emphasizes local materials and heat-mitigating design elements—this campus incorporates functionality and simplicity with climate-responsive design. The university’s Faculty of Environmental Design and Management will work with an architectural firm to develop a comprehensive conservation management plan that not only preserves the postcolonial, modernist architecture, but also sets standards for the care of similar campus structures across the region.

International Fairgrounds, Dakar, Sénégal (architects: Jean-François Lamoureux and Jean-Louis Marin, 1974)

A series of triangular buildings with exquisite architectural detailing, the Centre International du Commerce Extérieur du Sénégal is a preeminent example of post-independence African modernism, which is known for leveraging new architectural technologies and daring designs to mirror the optimism of newly liberated states. An experienced project team will develop a detailed conservation management plan for the complex, collaborating with local Senegalese professionals and architectural students.
Gandhi Bhawan, Chandigarh, India (architect: Pierre Jeanneret, 1962)

Set into a large reflecting pool, Gandhi Bhawan takes the shape of an abstracted lotus flower, marrying angular lines with swelling organic forms. A former recipient of a Keeping It Modern grant for conservation research and planning, Gandhi Bhawan will now receive an implementation grant to allow the India-based project team to conserve two of the site’s most definitive elements: the reflecting pool and the building’s exterior cladding panels made of precast concrete. Once completed, the work will set a new standard in the field while meticulously preserving this iconic landmark.

Swimming Pools, Leça, Portugal (architect: Álvaro Siza, 1966)

Stark, rectilinear concrete walls intersect with the shoreline’s rugged natural rock at this striking outdoor recreational complex. Over the years, the maritime location and neighboring oil refinery have contributed to the deterioration of the pools’ concrete structures. Getty grant funds will support investigations into the preservation of the concrete and the development of a conservation management plan.
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Stadium, Ahmedabad, India (architect: Charles Correa; structural design: Mahendra Raj, 1966)

This 50,000-seat stadium was once the largest cricket venue in the world, and it is still used today for sporting events and cultural festivals. Its distinct cantilevered framing takes its structural power from an elegantly zig-zagging exterior wall that provides added reinforcement. But even though it was created with cutting-edge technology, the steel-reinforced concrete is now showing visible signs of strain. Specialists from the US and India will collaborate on a detailed plan to conserve the stadium while increasing local knowledge regarding the care of exposed concrete buildings.

Oberstufen-Schulzentrum Wedding, Berlin, Germany (architects: Pysall, Jensen, Stahrenberg & Partner, 1976)

With its bright orange façade, modular, curved-edge panels, and rounded windows, this former secondary school brings a distinctive Pop flare to the Bauhaus-derived language of international modernism. The horizontal layout reflects reformist educational goals to strip away class hierarchies, and large windows suggest transparency while integrating exterior and interior spaces. Since the school closed in 2011, a nonprofit, Js wedding, has advocated for its reuse as a community center. A Getty grant will help an interdisciplinary team of experts research the building and define an overarching strategy for its conservation, operations, and long-term management.

Rietveld Academie, Amsterdam, Netherlands (architect: Gerrit Rietveld, 1963)

The main building of Rietveld Academie, an art and design school, embodies the idea of architecture not as mass but as a boundary made of space and light. The four-story structure features a prominent span of glass known as a curtain wall that allows daylight to stream into the classrooms and studios. A Getty grant for a conservation management plan will help preserve the structure’s original fabric and develop new solutions that accommodate modern-day educational technology and energy-efficiency standards.
First Presbyterian Church, Stamford, Connecticut (architect: Wallace K. Harrison, 1958)

A major component of this house of worship is its stained-glass sanctuary windows that sparkle with over 20,000 pieces of amber, emerald, ruby, amethyst, and sapphire glass, executed using dalle de verre, a pioneering approach of setting colored glass within a concrete matrix. The church received an earlier Keeping It Modern grant for conservation research and planning. With this new implementation grant the project team can create mockups and perform field tests on one of the church’s walls in order to conserve, repair, and stabilize the dalle de verre elements.

For more information about KIM, visit the Getty Foundation’s website at www.getty.edu/foundation/initiatives/current/keeping_it_modern/.

Buzludzha Monument, Hadzhi Dimitar Peak, Bulgaria (architect: Georgi Stoilov, 1981)

The Buzludzha Monument, which commemorates the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Bulgarian Communist Party, received a Keeping It Modern planning grant in 2019 and has received another for the immediate stabilization of its elaborate interior mosaics. These artworks—which highlight events, figures, and policies from 20th-century Bulgarian history—are at severe risk of being destroyed without immediate intervention. A new Getty grant will support the installation of a shelter to protect the mosaics from the elements, as well as technical investigations and implementations to prevent them from detaching from the concrete walls.

Monasterio Benedictino de la Santísima Trinidad de las Condes, Santiago, Chile (architects: Brother Martín Correa and Gabriel Guarda OSB, 1964)

The minimalistic chapel at the Benedictine Monastery of the Holy Trinity stands in stark contrast to the ornamentation and gilded surfaces of many Catholic houses of worship. Although recognized as a national historic monument in 1981, the monastery lacks a conservation plan for the chapel that addresses both the practical needs of the monastic community and the site’s aging fabric. Led by the Universidad del Desarrollo, the project team will work with local consultants and government agencies to develop a comprehensive protocol for site maintenance.
Any event, from the successful completion of a business deal to the fall of a great empire, might be attributed to the intervention of the gods, imagined to be fully as fickle and partisan as humans. Elaborate methods were contrived to determine the gods’ will through natural omens, such as unusual animal behavior, astronomical events, the patterns of oil on water, dreams, the shape and color of sacrificial animal entrails, and so on. To record this last practice, animal livers were modeled in clay and inscribed with the names of their various parts and what they indicated. "If the finger of the liver is like a cow’s tongue," a typical entry reads, "his eunuchs will murder the king." No temple would be founded or war waged without obtaining a favorable omen from the relevant god.

By about 3300 BC, the major walled city of Uruk, with a population of around 100,000, represented the largest settled concentration of people anywhere in the world. The key social and political aspects of Uruk’s rise to pre-eminence remain elusive, but archaeology reveals the physical manifestations of the great changes taking place, including the appearance of monumental architecture, rapid advances in technologies, arts, and architecture, and the invention of the first known system of writing. It is also clear that religion suffused every aspect of Mesopotamian private and public life to an extent difficult to comprehend today.

Religion suffused every aspect of private and public life to an extent difficult to comprehend from a modern viewpoint.

The temples of major deities supported large priestly households who managed the gods’ often considerable estates. Economic as well as a religious institution, engaging in agriculture, manufacturing, and trade, the temples would expect to receive booty and slaves from a successful military campaign by the king. Priests were the scholars of their day, and education took place in temple schools as well as in private houses.
The temples were imposing buildings, often set on a raised platform and lavishly decorated with precious metals and stones. Most cultic activities were conducted behind closed doors, the public taking part only in major festivals when the cult statues were paraded around. Otherwise, the cult statue of the god in the inner sanctum of the temple was cleaned, clothed, and fed daily by the priests. The region’s famous ziggurats—including the one in Babylon that the Bible calls the “Tower of Babel”—were essentially huge staged podiums with staircases leading to a small shrine at the top where ceremonial rituals were performed.

The patron gods of the imperial capitals some times also became the state deities of great empires—noteably Ashur for Assyria and Marduk for Babylonia. The region’s famous ziggurats—including the one in Babylon that the Bible calls the “Tower of Babel”—were essentially huge staged podiums with staircases leading to a small shrine at the top where ceremonial rituals were performed.

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Los Angeles is a beating heart. Sunset Boulevard is its artery. The 22-mile street stretches from the sun-splashed Pacific Coast Highway in the west, to the skyscrapers of downtown in the east, linking sprawling homes with iconic nightclubs and glass high-rises. Its simultaneous glamor and grime have transfixed authors, filmmakers, and artists for decades, though few have documented its ebb and flow like pop artist Ed Ruscha.

An “Angeleno” since moving from Oklahoma to Los Angeles in 1956, Ruscha found inspiration in staples of LA life others might have found banal, carving out a niche photographing and painting gas stations, apartment complexes, and other modest buildings. In 1965, he turned his camera towards Sunset Boulevard.

This ever-evolving street should be “nailed down and captured,” he once said, suggesting that its gleam, grit, and continuous metamorphosis represented Los Angeles’ decay (or development, depending on your view) over time. Ruscha made multiple trips across Sunset Boulevard over 50 years, each time meticulously taking photos of every business, house, lawn, and even parking lot he saw from his pickup truck and van.

While photos from his trip down Sunset in 1966 were published in the now-iconic artist’s book Every Building on the Sunset Strip, the images Ruscha and his team took over the next five decades have remained unseen by the public until this fall.
The Getty Research Institute (GRI) has launched two interactive websites. The first, 12 Sunsets, displays photos from 12 of Ruscha’s Sunset trips, 1965 to 2007, arranging them along a virtual map that can be easily navigated and explored by a general audience. The second, the Research Collections Viewer, is organized much like a library catalogue and serves as an access and discovery tool for scholars.

In 2012 the GRI acquired Ruscha’s Sunset Boulevard archive, a collection of more than 500,000 images stored on rolls of delicate film stock. The incredible volume of photographs meant that each roll of film contained an average of 7,000 images, making it near impossible to search through and study the archive in its physical form. Researchers working on the project knew that this material would have to be digitized—that is, photographed and made accessible online so that scholars could sort, organize, and analyze Ruscha’s immense collection, keeping it safe for years to come. This digitization effort culminated in the two new websites.

The archive could only be accessible to the public or researchers in digital form, says Emily Pugh, head of the digital art history department at the GRI. “It existed primarily as undeveloped negatives that are difficult to access in their physical form. Ruscha himself said he’d only seen about 10 percent of these images. So in this case, digitization was the only way to provide meaningful access.”

Your Keyboard as Steering Wheel

On 12 Sunsets, you will experience Ruscha’s archive as a virtual tour of Sunset Boulevard. After selecting which year’s photos you want to see, you can move down Sunset on the map (your place on the map is represented by your choice of vehicle icons) using the mouse or left and right arrow keys. The corresponding photos of the street are displayed above and below the map, to represent each side of the street. Simply cruise down the street and watch the scenery change, or enter an address in the search bar to view a specific location.
To organize the approximately 60,000 images in this collection, each has been tagged with a few words that describe it. A 2007 photograph of the Sunset Trouncer's Lounge, for example, has been tagged with “landmark,” “architecture,” and “luxury vehicle” due to the car parked in front of the building. You can search for a tag to find all its matching images.

**From Contact Sheets to Notes to Gas Receipts**

The archive in the Research Collections Viewer, by contrast, does not center around the interactive map. Instead, users can explore the archive using search terms and an organizational hierarchy that allows them to navigate down into every image taken at each photo shoot. This collection includes the entire archive—not only the photos that were digitized and featured in 12 Sunsets, but also lists of items that were not digitized, including photos of other streets besides Sunset, negatives, contact sheets, notes, maps Ruscha used, and receipts for lunch and gas purchased during a shoot. These additional materials reveal the practical, and human, side of Ruscha’s artistic process.

Digitizing such a vast archive required a team of photographers, curators, art historians, and software developers to build brand-new systems for transferring and organizing the images onto the digital platform. The first step was to custom-build an imaging rig, similar to a film projector, which connected to a digital preservation system. Reels ran through this device and produced individual digital images. But rather than digitize every single reel, the curatorial team focused their efforts. The team made a selection from all of the shoots that would represent the contents of the archive as a whole, which focuses on Sunset Boulevard but also includes photos of streets such as Santa Monica Boulevard, Melrose Avenue, and Hollywood Boulevard. And since the organization of some reels made it difficult to uncover exactly where the images were taken—several boxes contained an assortment of images of hedges, lawns, and other Sunset Boulevard scenery whose precise location would be challenging to determine—anonymous images were not digitized.

The year-long winnowing process resulted in about 130,000 digitized images, or 20 percent of the total archive. Those interested in examining the non-digitized images can find them at the GRI, though without the easy access the digital archive provides.

**Stanford, Software Developers, and Scholars Join In**

With the digitization process underway, the team realized it needed more metadata about each image than is typically produced by the archival cataloging process. While most catalogers typically label images based on overarching categories like the year they were taken, such information would be too general to be useful in this case. However, because the Ruscha images represented actual streets and buildings, the archive was an ideal candidate for geospatial metadata—the organization and labeling of data based on its location. Getty’s digital team worked with a software development firm in Dallas and a geospatial library manager at Stanford University to produce this information for each image.

Concurrent with the metadata generation and digitization processes, the Getty digital team invited a group of interdisciplinary scholars from around the globe to launch their own research projects using the digitized archive. Their feedback and the kinds of research questions they brought to the archive informed metadata creation and software developments, further improving the functionality and effectiveness of the interfaces people will use to access the archive.

The roughly two-year digitization process forced both creative and manual solutions to challenges that arose. When it was discovered that some of the reels were afflicted with vinegar syndrome—a result of decaying film stock that smells like its name—ventilation hoods were installed in the rooms at the GRI where the film would be handled. When the digital preservation system software began to fail due to the high volume of photos being processed, Getty’s digital team spent months rewriting the software to better accommodate the larger volume of files. And though the digital mapping interface could predict the location of images with an impressive degree of precision, metadata specialists still served as a final checkpoint on accuracy, oftentimes lining up individual photos on the map themselves.

Where to Now?

The learnings and labor that went into 12 Sunsets and the Research Collections Viewer established how to tackle this monumental digitization process, and will provide a blueprint for completing the rest of the archive. In the meantime, scholars in diverse fields such as architecture history, urban planning, and American art will be able to utilize the digitized archive to help answer their own research questions.

“We have some broad ideas of what those research questions might be, for example, you can see how signage changes, including the appearance of billboards publicizing hotlines at the beginning of the AIDS crisis,” says Pugh. “So it’ll be interesting to see what people find once we put this out into the world.”

For Ruscha’s fellow Angelenos, the people who love the stories of Los Angeles and its ever-changing streets, 12 Sunsets and the Research Collections Viewer will offer a glimpse into the city’s past that would otherwise have remained hidden in Ruscha’s rolls of film. “These are spaces and buildings and signage that we would have very little historical record of otherwise,” says Pugh. “So Ruscha’s archive not only serves as a record of Los Angeles, it also raises the everyday urban environment of LA into something compelling, evocative, and beautiful at the same time.”

Visit 12 Sunsets and the Research Collections Viewer at Getty.edu.
How is the coronavirus pandemic affecting the conservation of cultural heritage sites? The Getty Conservation Institute’s Susan Macdonald reports

By Susan Macdonald
Head, Buildings and Sites
Getty Conservation Institute

As I write, we don’t yet know the full socio-economic impact of the devastating COVID-19 pandemic on people and places around the world. But we know from conversations we’ve had with colleagues and partners globally that cultural heritage places and the many people who rely on them for their livelihoods have been, and continue to be, severely affected. The work we do at Getty to advance the conservation of the world’s cultural heritage engages partners and colleagues around the globe. The pandemic has made us rethink how we do this work and consider how we can continue to engage and support our partners and consultants during this difficult time and beyond.

How Will the Pandemic Impact Cultural Heritage Sites?

Right now we can only speculate on the pandemic’s full impact on cultural heritage sites, but we are already seeing extremely worrying signs. Numerous heritage sites are currently closed to the public, devastating local economies that rely on tourism. Government heritage departments and operators of heritage sites have been deeply impacted by declining income or funding reallocations as governments struggle to meet current COVID-19-related demands. At archaeological sites, looting and other forms of illegal access have been reported.

Many of the departments we collaborate with in our work at heritage sites are government-run, which means that their staff are at the forefront of government policies on how people can access sites, how visitors and staff can be kept safe, and when a site should shut down. At the same time that staff are dealing with emerging COVID-19 health and safety issues, they are maintaining and caring for sites. Because of this situation, work has been affected; we know of sites that should shut down.

support to our partners and have been looking for ways to assist however we can. In Myanmar, the engineers we collaborate with at the World Heritage Site of Bagan have been completing the conservation of the mosaics in the Tablinum at the House of the Bicentenary. In the Andes of Peru, we are working with the local community of Kuñotambo on a maintenance plan for a church whose conservation we completed last year with our partner, the Dirección Desconcentrada de Cultura de Cusco, Peru.

Reimagining Our Training and Resources

In addition to our work at heritage sites, we offer training courses for professionals. These courses, like our field work, have been affected by the pandemic. We’ve postponed or rethought courses we had planned over the next 12 months, including the International Course on the Conservation of Earthen Architecture in Abu Dhabi and the Old Cities New Challenges urban conservation course in Penang, Malaysia. The earthen architecture course, which involves hands-on practical building conservation activities, has been rescheduled for 2022, while Old Cities New Challenges is being reimagined as an online course, with an in-person follow-up in Penang when travel can safely resume.

We are taking advantage of this additional time to examine ways to expand our training, to look at new technologies that can help us deliver training to national project sites, we remain committed to our collaborative project work. We have reaffirmed our support to our partners and have been looking for ways to assist however we can. Before the pandemic hit, our Bagan colleagues had planned to travel to the International Institute of Technology in Madras, India, together with a group from the Myanmar Technological University, to review the structural models of the temples at Bagan developed by the engineers. With travel impossible, this work was able to continue remotely on Zoom over the course of two weeks.

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We are also seeing changes in policy. As a COVID-19 recovery solution, some governments are beginning to take steps to relax planning and environmental legislation to allow greater development. But this short-sighted action could pose a real threat for heritage sites.

Supporting Our Partners and Sustaining Our Work in the Field

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In Myanmar, the engineers we collaborate with at the World Heritage Site of Bagan have been completing the documentation and recording work we began in February, and we’ve offered them ongoing mentoring to enhance the training they’ve already received.

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We’ve also been able to support the continuation of work at sites in Italy and Peru. At the World Heritage Site of Herculaneum, Italy, our local consultant conservators worked to complete the conservation of the mosaics in the Tablinum at the House of the Bicentenary. In the Andes of Peru, we are working with the local community of Kuñotambo on a maintenance plan for a church whose conservation we completed last year with our partner, the Dirección Desconcentrada de Cultura de Cusco, Peru.

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new resources to serve the conservation community, including a new book series on modern architectural materials, new publications on urban conservation, and a range of training manuals and guidelines. This brainstorming has been really exciting—and something, under normal circumstances, that we often don’t have time to do.

Working Locally
During this time, we’ve looked at expanding our work in LA. We’re planning a project with the City of Los Angeles that would support further efforts to identify, protect, and celebrate the city’s African American heritage. This work builds on Survey LA, a citywide project to identify the cultural heritage of Los Angeles undertaken with the Conservation Institute’s support over a number of years. As part of this work, a historic context statement on the city’s African American history was prepared.

This context statement provides a framework for identifying and evaluating related historic resources, which is the first step in their protection and celebration. Led by the city, in collaboration with African American cultural organizations and communities in Los Angeles, the new project aims to expand and implement a number of recommendations from that earlier work. This may include activities such as formally protecting, through designation, a number of places identified in the Survey LA studies, undertaking broader community engagement, working with a number of communities to develop heritage strategies that identify places of importance, and developing plans that interpret and celebrate African American heritage.

This work would also provide an opportunity to investigate how heritage-related planning policies can be rethought and revised to contribute to the development of wider antiracist policies and practices in the historic preservation and planning sector.

The Future of Cultural Heritage Conservation
As we emerge from this pandemic, the landscape for cultural heritage may be permanently changed. Some institutions may not survive. And the destructive impact on countless people who rely on cultural heritage for their livelihood will likely be enormous.

Because of that, the cultural heritage sector must play an essential and powerful role in helping to rebuild local economies, provided that these recovery efforts are designed to benefit those most in need of support. We expect that the current spotlight on equity and social justice will bring lasting change to our sector, since conservation has long played a role in fundamental societal issues such as human rights, social justice, and climate change.

All of us working to conserve cultural heritage must dedicate ourselves to effecting meaningful change—both in what we do and how we go about our work—so that our society can be as equal and just as it aspires to be.

This pause in our travels has also given us time to focus on the development of publications and resources that can close information gaps in the field. So far we’ve identified a number of books we can digitize, to make them more readily available to the conservation field. We’ve also conceived of new ways to engage a wider audience in new ways, and to create training materials that provide a lasting legacy in our areas of work. Future training courses in site management, mosaics conservation, and modern architecture will benefit from this reflection.

We are also thinking extensively about the training materials we create and how we might package these materials for broader use and accessibility. This thinking won’t end with the pandemic—it will inform our work moving forward. Our goal is to engage long term with our partners, so as to explore the nature of their challenges and the ways we can best respond to them.

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Working Locally
During this time, we’ve looked at expanding our work in LA. We’re planning a project with the City of Los Angeles that would support further efforts to identify, protect, and celebrate the city’s African American heritage. This work builds on Survey LA, a citywide project to identify the cultural heritage of Los Angeles undertaken with the Conservation Institute’s support over a number of years. As part of this work, a historic context statement on the city’s African American history was prepared.

This context statement provides a framework for identifying and evaluating related historic resources, which is the first step in their protection and celebration. Led by the city, in collaboration with African American cultural organizations and communities in Los Angeles, the new project aims to expand and implement a number of recommendations from that earlier work. This may include activities such as formally protecting, through designation, a number of places identified in the Survey LA studies, undertaking broader community engagement, working with a number of communities to develop heritage strategies that identify places of importance, and developing plans that interpret and celebrate African American heritage.

This work would also provide an opportunity to investigate how heritage-related planning policies can be rethought and revised to contribute to the development of wider antiracist policies and practices in the historic preservation and planning sector.

The Future of Cultural Heritage Conservation
As we emerge from this pandemic, the landscape for cultural heritage may be permanently changed. Some institutions may not survive. And the destructive impact on countless people who rely on cultural heritage for their livelihood will likely be enormous.

Because of that, the cultural heritage sector must play an essential and powerful role in helping to rebuild local economies, provided that these recovery efforts are designed to benefit those most in need of support. We expect that the current spotlight on equity and social justice will bring lasting change to our sector, since conservation has long played a role in fundamental societal issues such as human rights, social justice, and climate change.

All of us working to conserve cultural heritage must dedicate ourselves to effecting meaningful change—both in what we do and how we go about our work—so that our society can be as equal and just as it aspires to be.

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ARMENIAN MANUSCRIPT ILLUMINATION

THE J. PAUL GETTY MUSEUM has extended its collection of Armenian illumined manuscripts with the acquisition of two new objects: a Gospel book (1583) decorated by a brother and sister team, and a leaf from a Gospel book with *The Nativity and the Adoration of the Magi* (1610). Although Getty’s Armenian manuscripts span several centuries, the Gospel book is the first Armenian object from the 16th century in its collection. Gospel books were among the most precious and revered manuscripts produced in medieval Armenia. The newly acquired Gospel book opens with a cycle of 20 animated and colorful illuminations showing scenes from Christian sacred history. Some of the most striking scenes are rarely found in the history of Armenian illumination, and include a theological scene depicting souls climbing and descending a ladder that links heaven and hell. Also unusual is an inscription at the end of the manuscript stating that the illuminations were completed by a brother and sister team named Ghouskas and Eghisabet. Evidence suggests that Eghisabet executed the illuminations showing scenes from Christian sacred history. Some of the most prominent reflections of our rich spiritual heritage through which our forefathers were able to retell the story of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in a most unique and magnificent way. With its majesty and centuries-old traditions, Armenian manuscript illumination truly is the queen of Armenian manuscript art. The two objects are scheduled to appear soon in Getty exhibitions. • 

—Elizabeth Morrison, senior curator, and Nava Streiter, graduate intern, Manuscripts, Getty Museum

EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY FRENCH CERAMICS

COLLECTOR AND PHIANTHROPIST MARYLOU BOONE has given an important group of French ceramics to the J. Paul Getty Museum. Over the last 30 years, Boone has acquired outstanding works of French faience and porcelain dating from the 17th to 18th centuries, and she has previously donated select pieces from her collection to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and to the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino. The recent gift to Getty continues her generous support of local cultural institutions and adds significant breadth and depth to the Getty Museum’s collection of French ceramics.

The gift comprises nine sets of works that represent rare examples of French soft-paste porcelain made at three of the major manufactories active in the vicinity of Paris in the 1700s: Saint-Cloud, Chantilly, and Mennecy. One work, a charger, is from a leading faience maker in the south of France, the manufactory of Joseph Olyérys at Moutiers. Each piece is of distinctive form, decoration, and workmanship, and half of the items are the only known examples and demonstrate a testament to Boone’s connoisseurship. “MaryLou Boone is a very discerning collector of European decorative arts, and has long been a good friend of Getty,” says Timothy Potts, director of the Getty Museum. “So it is especially pleasing that she has decided to donate a number of her most important works to the museum.” The objects include vessels, plates, and figures originally made to ornament dining tables during the dessert course, and small boxes likely to be displayed on elaborate dressing tables. Aside from their utility, these items were meant to reflect the wealth and refined taste of their owners.

One box is imaginatively conceived to look like an object wrapped in fabric, complete with double knot on elaborate dressing tables. Aside from their utilitarian aspects, these items were meant to reflect the wealth and refined taste of their owners. All of these acquisitions demonstrate French manufactories’ ambitious achievements during a remarkable period for technical and stylistic advancement in the ceramic arts of Europe. •

—Jeffrey Weaver, associate curator, Sculpture and Decorative Arts, Getty Museum

NEW ACQUISITIONS

Above: Box, 1720–1740. French, Saint-Cloud Porcelain Manufactory. Soft-paste porcelain with gold and enamel. 19.1 x 10.2 x 8.9 in. (48.5 x 26 x 22.6 cm). Gift of MaryLou Boone. The J. Paul Getty Museum

Opposite top: Top: The Way to Eternal Life, from Getty Ms. 75.249.1, Arme- nia, 1583, Eghisabet. The J. Paul Getty Museum


Nature of Christ with the Adoration of the Shepherds and the Magi, from a Gospel book (Getty, Ms. Ludwig II 7), Isfahan, Persia, 1610, Eghisabet. The J. Paul Getty Museum

Collectors and patrons have often–untold contributions of female artists to the history of illumination.”

The 17th-century leaf once belonged to a manuscript by the celebrated artist Mesrop of Khizan already in Getty’s collection (Ms. Ludwig II 7). The leaf contains a vibrant depiction of the Nativity of Christ set within a frame of colorful interlacing designs. The heavens emit a ray of blue light toward the Christ child, who is held by the reclining Virgin Mary, while Joseph rests his hand on his face next to a shepherd who plays a flute for two small animals. At the right, the three magi offer their gifts. The leaf was removed from the manuscript more than 50 years ago, long before the codex entered the Getty’s collection, probably by an unscrupulous dealer who expected to make a greater profit by selling the pages separately. Now the two pieces can finally be reunited.

On learning of the acquisitions, Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America, said, “Armenian manuscript art is one of the most prominent reflections of our rich spiritual heritage through which our forefathers were able to retell the story of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in a most unique and magnificent way. With its majesty and centuries-old traditions, Armenian manuscript illumination truly is the queen of Armenian manuscript art.”

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—Elizabeth Morrison, senior curator, and Nava Streiter, graduate intern, Manuscripts, Getty Museum
Van Gogh’s *Starry Night* made out of spaghetti? Cat with a Pearl Earring? Frida Kahlo self-portraits with pets and toilet paper? While the world reeled from the spread of COVID-19, thousands of people around the globe, inspired by challenges from Getty and other museums, raided toy chests, repurposed pantry items, and enlisted family, roommates, and animals to re-create famous works of art at home. Astonishing in their creativity, wit, and ingenuity, these creations remind us of the power of art to unite us and bring joy during troubled times. *Off the Walls* presents highlights from this challenge in one whimsical, irresistible volume.

Getty Publications will donate all profits from the sales of this book to Artist Relief, an emergency initiative offering resources to artists across the United States.

**OFF THE WALLS:**
**INSPIRED RE-CREATIONS OF ICONIC ARTWORKS**

Preface by Sarah Waldorf and Annelisa Stephan

Clockwise:
- Frans van Mieris the Elder, *Picture (An Allegory of Painting)*, 1661. Re-creation: @creamii.art
- Édouard Manet, *Jeanne (Spring)*, 1881. Re-creation: Jeannette Hulick
- Kitagawa Utamaro, *Hairdresser (Kamiyui)*, ca. 1797–98. Re-creation: Makya Jackson

NEW FROM GETTY PUBLICATIONS
Following the Armory Show of 1913, Louise and Walter Arensberg began assembling one of the most important private collections of art in the United States. By the time Louise and Walter died, they had acquired nearly 1,000 works of art, including world-class specimens of Cubism, Surrealism, and Primitivism, the bulk of Marcel Duchamp's oeuvre, and hundreds of pre-Columbian objects. These works filled nearly all available space in every room of their house—including the bathrooms.

The Arenbergs have long had a central role in the histories of modernism and collecting, but images of their collection in situ have never been examined comprehensively until now. Presenting new research on how the Arenbergs acquired pre-Columbian art and featuring never-before-seen images, Hollywood Arensberg demonstrates the value of seeing the Arenbergs' collection as part of a single vision, framed by a unique domestic space at the heart of Hollywood's burgeoning artistic scene.
FEELING COPACETIC?

In a print suite and cookbook, artist Alison Saar captures the many moods conjured by cooking, listening to music, or even better, doing both at the same time.

EARLY IN 2020, AT THE TIME OF THE FRIEZE LOS ANGELES ART FAIR, the Getty Research Institute (GRI) acquired Los Angeles-based artist Alison Saar’s series of eight multi-block linocuts on kozo paper, titled Copacetic Suite (2018–2019). Evoking the mental spaces of performers and audiences—some private, others in-the-groove and connected—the deep and varied colors of the prints are about the moods of music: sung, played, danced, and simply heard. Sound hovers and swirls. The music calls up ghostly figures from the linocuts’ textured surfaces and backgrounds, creating spiritual, as well as mysterious, moments. The saxophone in Shebop is literally smoking. Jitterbug dancers are joined by a spectral third partner; Hepcat, a listener, turns inquisitively toward the viewer; the singer in Torch Song holds her flames like a bouquet. Viewers can make up whatever story they like, since the figures depicted in the linocuts don’t...
Saar’s grainy surfaces and outlines express the force of feelings, the experience of becoming lost in music or transported by it, no matter whether performing or listening. Meaning “it’s fine,” copacetic is a cool word to use as the title of this print series and to explain its mood. In its oblique acknowledgement that things are in synch, even working quite well, copacetic’s historic usage reaches back to early 20th-century songs. It’s found in “At the New Jump Steady Ball,” recorded by Ethel Waters in 1921. After a list of alcoholic beverage possibilities at the speakeasy, she sings “Copacetic was the best way for one and all.”

We can mix interior adventures offered by music with the more visceral satisfactions of the palate with the L.A. Louver gallery’s gift of Saar’s cookbook, Recipes for Trouble, which includes selected comfort food recipes and playlists to accompany them. Illustrated with Saar’s artworks, the cookbook is a trifecta for the GRI’s special collections (at once an artist’s book and an illustrated cookbook, and drawn from African American culture). You can find the book reproduced on L.A. Louver’s website, and it’s the perfect thing for these long days and weeks sheltering at home: you can read, laugh, and then cook up the recipes in time with the recommended tunes. Saar’s text puts it all together on the title page: “Conjurin’ in the kitchen is about the feel more than measurement. The syncopation of ingredients is essential. Improvisation strongly encouraged.”

If there was a subtlety you might have missed in Copacetic Suite, explicit information can be found in the recipes. “Good Money Greens,” to be eaten on New Year’s Day, are paired with Charles Mingus’s “Goodbye Pork Pie Hat” or Daddy Hotcakes’ “Mustard Greens.”

The cookbook’s closer is “Put your foot in it” Sweet Potato Pie,” accompanied by Nina Simone’s “I Want A Little Sugar in My Bowl.” Saar writes, “EAT with your lover. GET under the covers.” Enough said. Look, listen, travel in your head-space, and most importantly, dine well.