



NEWS FROM THE GETTY

news.getty.edu | gettycommunications@getty.edu

**DATE: September 17, 2019
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

MEDIA CONTACT

Julie Jaskol
Getty Communications
(310) 440-7607
jjaskol@getty.edu

GETTY TO DEVOTE \$100 MILLION TO ADDRESS THREATS TO THE WORLD'S ANCIENT CULTURAL HERITAGE

Global initiative will enlist partners to raise awareness of threats and create effective conservation and education strategies



Participants in the 2014 Mosaikon course Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites with Mosaics conduct a condition survey exercise of the Achilles Mosaic at the Paphos Archeological Park, Paphos, Cyprus. Continued work at Paphos will be undertaken as part of *Ancient Worlds Now*.

Los Angeles – The J. Paul Getty Trust will embark on an unprecedented and ambitious \$100-million, decade-long global initiative to promote a greater understanding of the world's cultural heritage and its universal value to society, including far-reaching education, research, and conservation efforts.

The innovative initiative, *Ancient Worlds Now: A Future for the Past*, will explore the interwoven histories of the ancient worlds through a diverse program of ground-breaking



Historia general de las cosas de Nueva España (Florentine Codex), Book 2, Fol. 106r (depicting how people were instructed and temples were cleaned during Nemontemi, the last 5 days of the Aztec solar calendar), Nahuatl and Spanish; AD 1575–77. Mexico, Tlatelolco. Paper, pigment. Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana, Florence, Med. Pal. 218.

scholarship, exhibitions, conservation, and pre- and post-graduate education, and draw on partnerships across a broad geographic spectrum including Asia, Africa, the Americas, the Middle East, and Europe.

"In an age of resurgent populism, sectarian violence, and climate change, the future of the world's common heritage is at risk," said James Cuno, president and CEO of the J. Paul Getty Trust. "Cultural heritage embodies a global community united by a common need to make things of beauty and usefulness, and to compose stories and rituals about humanity's place in the world. We will launch with urgency and build momentum for years to come. This work must start now, before more cultural heritage is neglected, damaged, or destroyed. Much is at stake."

Over the coming year, Getty will engage major global partners from schools and universities, cultural institutions, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector in this urgent work. Activities are underway now, with an official launch planned for summer 2020. The initiative will continue through 2030 and beyond.

Broad in scope, *Ancient Worlds Now: A Future for the Past* will make a significant and lasting impact by:

- Raising broad awareness of the threats to ancient heritage from development, economic pressures, mass tourism, political forces, climate change, and violent conflict;
- Creating effective conservation strategies that can be applied on a large scale to increase scientific expertise and global capacity to save what remains;
- Engaging global audiences through compelling advanced digital and interactive education and exhibition programs, demonstrating the importance of cultural heritage;
- Pursuing deep inquiry, including through advanced digital research techniques, to strengthen our understanding of the interconnections and fluidity between and among ancient cultures.

In addition to partnerships, Getty will dedicate the cross-disciplinary work of its four programs—Getty Foundation, Getty Research Institute, Getty Conservation Institute, and Getty Museum—to this effort.

"Getty is one of the leading global institutions committed to the study and preservation of ancient cultural heritage, and its convening power and deep expertise allow it to effectively

undertake an initiative of this magnitude," said David Lee, chair of the Getty Board of Trustees.

In this regard, Getty Museum recently launched a series of exhibitions and education programs related to the classical world that began with the exhibitions "Palmyra: Loss and Remembrance" and "Beyond the Nile: Egypt and the Classical World," the latter a study of the influence of Egypt throughout the Mediterranean region. It will now expand this series with upcoming exhibitions focusing on ancient Mesopotamia, Persia, Thrace, Assyria, and the Levant.



Course site visit to the earthen village of Al Sulaif, near Ibri, Oman.
Photo: Nicole Declat © J. Paul Getty Trust

Other Getty activities already underway include grant support for the digital mapping of excavations at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Çatalhöyük in Turkey; conservation efforts in Southeast Asia; and conservation efforts at the Byzantine-era archaeological site of Nea Paphos and its necropolis on the island of Cyprus.

Other Getty activities planned or in progress include support for a traveling research seminar on the art and architecture of ancient Thrace; a program for archaeologists from Turkey, Greece, and Bulgaria to study the histories of ancient monuments and sites in Turkey; an international course on the conservation of earthen architecture to be held in Abu Dhabi; a book focusing on the intentional destruction of cultural heritage in pursuit of strategic and political objectives; and support for training at the Iraqi Institute for the Conservation of Antiquities and Heritage in Erbil, capital of Iraqi Kurdistan.

"Getty's initiative is critically important because, tragically, threats to the survival of the world's cultural heritage through neglect, purposeful and collateral destruction, overdevelopment, and climate change are putting at risk the lessons and legacy of the past," said Irina Bokova, former director-general of UNESCO. "Such threats will require global partnerships and the work of non-governmental, non-political organizations such as Getty to heighten understanding on a global scale of the importance of the world's ancient cultures and common past."

Former British Museum director Neil MacGregor will serve as a consultant to the *Ancient Worlds Now: A Future for the Past* initiative. "Human history is inevitably a history of entanglements and networks, of overlapping economic, political, and cultural developments," MacGregor said. "In today's sectarian violence, the complexity of the past is distorted through ideological manipulation, neglect, and destruction. Getty's bold new initiative will address this by developing an understanding that the world's cultural heritage, is our common heritage and that it continues to shape us all."

Cuno said immediate next steps include recruiting supporters and strategic partners who share the Getty's passion and commitment to the protection of ancient cultural heritage.

Read more about *Ancient Worlds Now: A Future for the Past* and its programs at getty.edu/ancientworlds.

###

Among the Getty projects already underway or in development as part of Ancient Worlds Now: A Future for the Past:

GETTY CONSERVATION INSTITUTE (GCI)

- **Paphos**
Working in partnership with the Department of Antiquities in Cyprus, the GCI will develop a conservation master plan to guide the preservation of one of the richest sites of mosaic pavement in the Mediterranean, with significant remains from the Hellenistic, Roman, early Christian and Byzantine periods, as well as Frankish and Ottoman monuments.
- **Abu Dhabi**
The GCI will present the International Course on the Conservation of Earthen Architecture in the World Heritage City of Al Ain, in Abu Dhabi, UAE, organized in partnership with the Department of Culture and Tourism-Abu Dhabi. The course, held February 2021, will provide practical training for mid-career professionals from the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia.

GETTY FOUNDATION

- **Digital Art History**
Several digital mapping grants are making records of important archaeological sites more widely accessible and allowing scholars to ask and answer new research questions:

Stanford University's *Çatalhöyük Living Archive* will be a GIS Web database of two decades of excavation data for this Neolithic and Chalcolithic settlement, making this important material available to archaeologists, art historians, and the general public.

University of Massachusetts Amherst's *Pompeii Artistic Landscape Project*, a collaboration with the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University, will make it possible to locate artworks geographically and assess complex connections between them at this renowned Roman archaeological site.

- **Research**
Several research seminars in the Foundation's *Connecting Art Histories* initiative are

bringing together younger scholars to enhance cross-border collaboration, break down nationalist narratives, and create new understandings of ancient cultures:

Emory University's *Beyond the Northern Aegean* convenes participants from the Black Sea region, Western Europe, and North America to explore how ancient communities traversed political and cultural borders to use Greek architectural forms and ideas in ancient Thrace.

University of California, Berkeley's *The Many Lives of Ancient Monuments* brings together younger art historians and archaeologists from the Greater Mediterranean region to study the history and interpretation of archaeological sites in Turkey.

A recently awarded grant to the **Centre for Advanced Study Sofia** is allowing scholars from across Southeastern Europe to analyze the history of archaeology in the region and to develop new interdisciplinary approaches that can reinvigorate our understanding of the ancient past.

- **Conservation Training**

A grant to the **Smithsonian Institution** is supporting a 12-week training program for Iraqi heritage specialists at the Iraqi Institute for the Conservation of Antiquities and Heritage in Erbil.

GETTY MUSEUM

- Several exhibitions are planned, or have already taken place, in connection with *Ancient Worlds Now: A Future for the Past*, and many with related lectures and scholarly conferences:

Palmyra—Loss and Remembrance (2017–19)
Beyond the Nile: Egypt and the Classical World (2018)
Assyria: Palace Art of Ancient Iraq (2019–2022)
Mesopotamia: Civilization Begins (2020)
Persia and the Classical World (2021)
Thrace and the Classical World (2023)
The Levant and the Classical world—Phoenicians, Philistines and Canaanites (2025).

- Many conservation treatments of ancient sculptures have recently been undertaken, are underway, or are in the planning stages:
Benevento Obelisk (2018)
Drunken Satyr (2018)
Herculaneum ivories
10 seismic mitigation bases for the National Archaeological Museum, Athens (underway)

Conservator Susanne Gaensicke and colleagues from Oriental Institute at University of Chicago are currently in Tashkent to train Central Asian museum conservators in treating metals.

GETTY RESEARCH INSTITUTE (GRI)

- **Duc de Luynes Collections Acquisition**

The GRI has acquired a nearly complete archive documenting two expeditions to the Holy Land undertaken by the visionary art collector, archaeologist, and scientist Honoré d'Albert, duc de Luynes. The expeditions, held in 1864 and 1866, constituted the first systematic attempts to survey and photograph the Dead Sea basin in present-day Jordan. The materials complement the Vignes album and photographs of Palmyra from the same mission, also held by the GRI. Together, these archives present a holistic record of a region seared by ethnic conflicts.

- **Lothar von Falkenhausen Library and Archive Acquisition**

The GRI has acquired the most comprehensive library dedicated to Chinese archaeology still remaining in private hands. Falkenhausen, professor of Chinese Archaeology and Art History at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and head of the East Asian Laboratory at UCLA's Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, has led multiple archaeological campaigns in China. Beginning in 1979, Falkenhausen made a serious effort to gather volumes related to Chinese archaeology. Today, the 25,000-volume library exceeds the collections of virtually all institutional libraries in the US and Europe.

- **Pre-Hispanic Art Provenance Initiative**

The Pre-Hispanic Art Provenance Initiative seeks to document and analyze the commodification and mobilization of Pre-Hispanic art and material culture by the international art market between the mid-19th and late-20th centuries. The initiative will include a biennial series of international symposia and workshops that examines the history of collecting and dealing in Pre-Hispanic art and a series of scholarly publications.

- **The Florentine Codex Initiative**

Included in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register, the Florentine Codex is considered the most important manuscript of early colonial Mexico, renowned for its bilingual, encyclopedic presentation of Pre-Hispanic culture and the Spanish conquest of the Aztec Empire, and widely regarded by scholars as the most reliable source of information about Aztec culture. Through translation and an interactive digital platform, the Florentine Codex initiative will provide global access to the manuscript and disseminate knowledge about its cultural significance.

GETTY PUBLICATIONS

- Getty Publications plans to publish *Cultural Heritage and Mass Atrocities: Human and Security Costs*, edited by James Cuno and Thomas G. Weiss, the first book to focus attention on the critically important linkage between attacks on cultural heritage and mass atrocities, from the perspective of humanitarian, security, political, legal, and

cultural studies. Contributors will include Edward Luck, Professor, Professional Practice in International & Public Affairs, Columbia University; Luis Monreal, Director General, Aga Khan Trust for Culture; Sabine von Schorlemer, UNESCO Chair in International Relations, Chair, International Law, EU Law and International Relations, Technical University Dresden, and nearly two dozen other international writers on these topics.

###

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