

Getty News

Mesopotamia: Civilization Begins

At the Getty Villa

Mar 18, 2020-Jul 27, 2020

RELATED EVENTS

From Uruk to L.A.: Ancient Mesopotamia at the Getty

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

7:30pm

Getty Villa: Auditorium

Free | Advance ticket required

Ancient Mesopotamia is considered the birthplace of writing and with it, recorded history. Its culture, mostly centered in what is now Iraq, also built the world's first cities and oldest known political and administrative systems. Although our present lifestyle and beliefs seem very different, we are the heirs to these fundamental "firsts." In this lecture, Ariane Thomas, curator at the Louvre Museum in Paris, presents Mesopotamia in relation to the exhibition *Mesopotamia: Civilization Begins*.

Power and Politics: Assyrian Palace Sculptures at the British Museum

Saturday, April 4, 2020

2pm

Getty Villa: Auditorium

Free | Advance ticket required

Ancient Assyria was one of the great civilizations of the ancient world. The empire reached its height between the 9th and 7th centuries B.C., occupying territory from the eastern Mediterranean to western Iran. Art and architecture flourished, and kings built lavish palaces lined with exquisitely cared stone walls depicting mythological creatures, military battles, ritual acts, and the royal hunt. Gareth Brereton, archaeologist and curator at the British Museum, discusses their discovery in the mid-19th century, the political and ideological messaging behind the stunning imagery, and their contribution to the legacy of Assyria's great cities and legendary rulers.

Mark My Words: Cuneiform Writing Workshop

Saturday, April 4, April 18, May 2, June 20, July 11, 2020

11:00am-3:00pm

Getty Villa: Outer Peristyle Garden

Free | Advance Villa entry ticket required

Uncover the mystery of ancient writing in this all-ages workshop. Discover how the ancient Mesopotamian writing system developed out of materials in their natural environment. Using some of

these same materials, press and roll words and images onto clay to create your own personal artwork. Complements the exhibition *Mesopotamia: Civilization Begins*. This is a free, drop-in program.

Artists at Work: The Writing on the Wall with Defer and Prime

Saturday, May 23, June 6, July 25, 2020

11:00am-3:00pm

Getty Villa: Education Courtyard

Free | Advance Villa entry ticket required

Writing on walls has existed in many forms since ancient times, with examples of graffiti dating back to ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Whether as vandalism or high art, a form of communication, devotion, message spreading, or advertising, humans have always wanted to leave their mark in the infrastructure. Join two of Los Angeles's most influential street artists, Defer and Prime, as we celebrate the interplay of words and images whose tradition began thousands of years ago. Complements the exhibition *Mesopotamia: Civilization Begins*.

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

The J. Paul Getty Museum collects Greek and Roman antiquities, European paintings, drawings, manuscripts, sculpture and decorative arts to 1900, as well as photographs from around the world to the present day. The Museum's mission is to display and interpret its collections, and present important loan exhibitions and publications for the enjoyment and education of visitors locally and internationally. This is supported by an active program of research, conservation, and public programs that seek to deepen our knowledge of and connection to works of art.

Visiting the Getty Villa

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

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

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