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## NEWS FROM GETTY PUBLICATIONS

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### A look at the making of a modern American masterpiece and its restoration

LOS ANGELES—Few paintings have an origin story as sensational and dramatic as Jackson Pollock's *Mural*. Commissioned in 1943 by Peggy Guggenheim for the entryway to her Manhattan apartment, *Mural* marks Pollock's break from representational painting and a watershed moment in the history of Abstract Expressionism. But for a major work of twentieth-century art, much of the story of its creation and initial installation seems to be built on unsubstantiated and salacious rumor. Did Pollock create *Mural* in a single alcohol-fueled evening? Are the energetic drips on *Mural*—which presage Pollock's later trademark drip paintings—oil paint or a moment of experimentation with another medium? Did Marcel Duchamp have to talk Pollock down when the painting did not fit into its intended space?

When *Mural* arrived at the Getty for conservation in 2012, staff members set about trying to find out as much about the physical painting itself—and some of these findings work to disprove or support *Mural*'s much mythologized origin story. ***Jackson Pollock's Mural*** (Getty Publications, \$29.95, hardcover) unveils the findings of the experts at the Getty and provides a more complete look at Pollock's process than ever before. The book also contains an informative essay on the artistic influences on Pollock's work up through *Mural* and its critical reception by eminent Pollock scholar Ellen G. Landau, as well as an introduction by famed actor and art collector Steve Martin. This volume accompanies and exhibition of the painting on view at the J. Paul Getty Museum from March 11 through June 1, 2014.

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**Yvonne Szafran** is senior conservator of paintings and **Laura Rivers** is associate conservator of paintings at the J. Paul Getty Museum. **Alan Phenix** is a scientist and **Tom Learner** is a senior scientist at the Getty Conservation Institute. **Ellen G. Landau** is Andrew W. Mellon Professor Emerita of the Humanities at Case Western Reserve University and has published widely on Abstract Expressionism. **Steve Martin** is a comedian, actor, musician, writer, and art collector.

Publication Information:

***Jackson Pollock's Mural***

The Transitional Moment

**Yvonne Szafran, Laura Rivers, Alan Phenix,  
Tom Learner, Ellen G. Landau, and Steve Martin**

J. Paul Getty Museum

124 pages, 10 x 9 inches

78 color and 13 b/w illustrations

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Kindly email notice of your review when published to Miranda Sklaroff, [msklaroff@getty.edu](mailto:msklaroff@getty.edu), Getty Publications, 1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 500, Los Angeles, CA 90049-1682.

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