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## **GETTY MUSEUM PRESENTS *HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MR. HOCKNEY***

*Two-part exhibition at the Getty Center features rarely seen self-portraits and photographs on the occasion of Hockney's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday*

***Self-portraits: June 27–November 26, 2017***

***Photographs: July 18–November 26, 2017***



**Left:** *Pearblossom Hwy., 11 - 18th April 1986, #2*, April 11-18, 1986, David Hockney (British, born 1937). Chromogenic prints mounted on paper honeycomb panel. 181.6 x 271.8 cm (71 1/2 x 107 in.). The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles © 1986 David Hockney

**Right:** *Self Portrait with Red Braces*, 2003. David Hockney (British, born 1937). Watercolor on paper. 24 x 18 1/8 in. Photo credit: Richard Schmidt © David Hockney

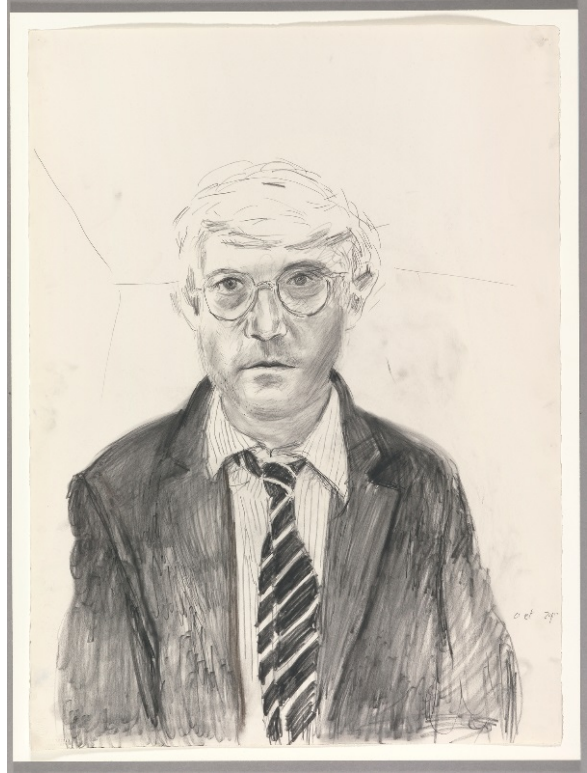
**LOS ANGELES** – David Hockney (British, born 1937) is celebrated as one of the most important artists of the past fifty years. His work in many media—from painting and drawing to printmaking and photography—demonstrates a distinctive, playful style and an enduring curiosity about technique. In celebration of the artist's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 9, the J. Paul Getty Museum presents *Happy Birthday, Mr. Hockney*, a two-part exhibition featuring Hockney's rarely seen self-portraits, Polaroid composites and photo collages, including the

Getty Museum's masterpiece *Pearblossom Hwy.*, 11–18th April 1986, #2, which was last shown in 2008. The exhibition is made possible through generous loans from David Hockney, Inc., the David Hockney Foundation, and a private collector. Financial support has been provided by Arlene Schnitzer and Jordan Schnitzer, Directors of The Harold & Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation.

"David Hockney is one of the most prolific and beloved artists of our time," says Timothy Potts, director of the J. Paul Getty Museum. "His light-filled images of Los Angeles, where he has spent much of the past fifty years, have become icons of the city's creative lifestyle and colorful personalities. Most remarkable of all has been David's relentless curiosity and inventiveness, exploring new techniques, technologies, and ways of constructing images up to the cusp of his ninth decade. His work remains as fresh and young today as it has ever been."

***Happy Birthday, Mr. Hockney: Self-portraits*** presents a selection of drawn and photographic self-portraits made over the past six decades. At the beginning of his career, Hockney was reluctant to study himself, but as time progressed he made several series of self-portraits at different moments in his life. On view will be self-portraits from each decade of his career, from the 1950s when he was a seventeen-year-old art student up to iPad studies made in 2012.

"Hockney's self-portraits in many ways reflect his career, exploring interests ranging from his flamboyant fashion sense to his own changing features and the consequences of ageing, but always laced with wit and deep sensitivity," says Julian Brooks, senior curator of drawings at the J. Paul Getty Museum. "They were never intended for commercial sale, and have instead remained with the artist. We are privileged to be exhibiting these rarely seen, intimate works."



*Self Portrait Oct. 24th, 1983.* David Hockney (British, born 1937). Charcoal on paper. 30 x 22 1/2 in. Photo credit: Richard Schmidt, Collection The David Hockney Foundation © David Hockney

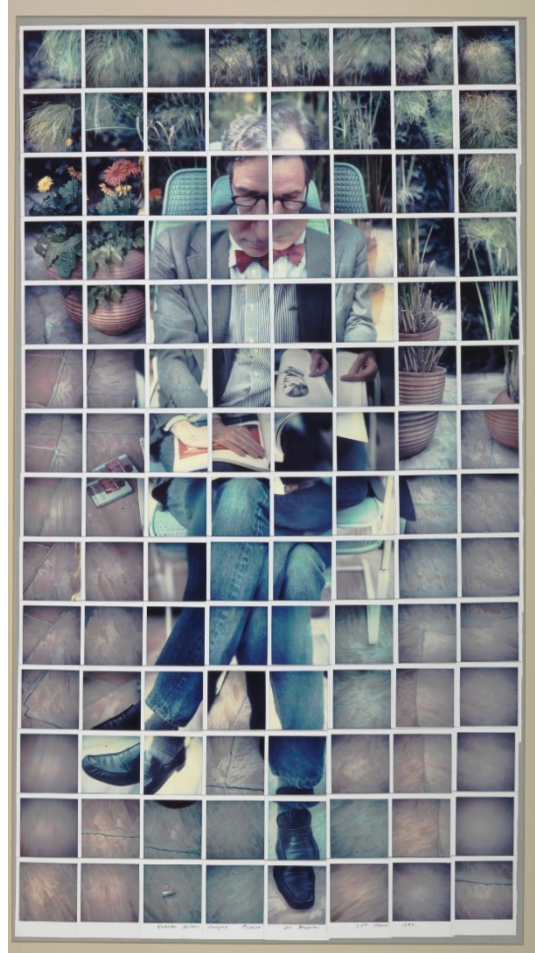
The self-portraits also underscore Hockney's interest in different media, including lithography, photography, and watercolor, and new technologies such as the Xerox copier. In 2012, Hockney enthusiastically adopted the iPad as a drawing tool, and soon mastered the features that distinguished it from media he had employed in the past.

A second gallery, *Happy Birthday, Mr. Hockney: Photographs*, features a selection of Hockney's photographs from the 1980s, when he investigated photography's ability to capture a sense of time and his own presence.

Photography has played an integral role in Hockney's practice since the 1960s, when he first used a 35mm camera to document family, friends, holidays, and travel, and then to create studies for paintings. Realizing that the decisive moment captured in most photographs presents a static view that is contrary to how we actually see the world, he began using a Polaroid SX-70 camera to create multiple views of subjects in instantaneous prints that he then assembled into grids. Both these Polaroid composites and the photo collages that followed anticipated the digital layering and compositing of images with computer software.

The exhibition will include *Pearblossom Hwy., 11–18th April 1986, #2*, acquired by the Getty Museum in 1997, and one of the artist's best-known works. The piece depicts a desert road in California's Antelope Valley, and overlays the mundane observations of a road trip with a witty and perceptive commentary on how to picture the third dimension. It will be the first time in nearly ten years – and only the third time since it was acquired – that this iconic work will be on view.

"With their fragmentation of form and abandonment of a single viewpoint, Hockney's Polaroid composites and photo collages show the influence of Cubism," says Virginia Heckert, department head of the Getty Museum's Department of Photographs, and a co-curator of the



*Nicholas Wilder Studying Picasso. Los Angeles 24<sup>th</sup> March 1982.* David Hockney (British, born 1937). Composite polaroid. 48 1/2 x 26 1/2 in. Photo credit: Richard Schmidt © David Hockney

exhibition. "By depicting multiple aspects of the same object, they encourage viewers to imagine moving through space to experience that object over a more extended period of time."

*Happy Birthday, Mr. Hockney* is curated by Julian Brooks, senior curator of drawings, and Virginia Heckert, head of the photographs department, both at the J. Paul Getty Museum. *Self-Portraits* will open June 27, 2017; *Photographs* will open July 18, 2017, and both will be on view at the Getty Center through November 26, 2017. Related programming will include gallery talks, a panel discussion and a drop-in family workshop. Additional information can be found at [getty.edu/360](http://getty.edu/360).

# # #

**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.

**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 Center**

**From May 26-September 1, 2017**, the Getty Center is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday until 9:00 p.m., and Sunday until 7:00 p.m. It is closed Monday and most major holidays. The Center will be closed on Monday, May 29, Memorial Day, and open on Tuesday, July 4, Independence Day.

Admission to the Getty Center is always free. Parking is \$15 per car, but reduced to \$10 after 3 p.m. No reservation is required for parking or general admission. Reservations are required for event seating and groups of 15 or more. Please call (310) 440-7300 (English or Spanish) for reservations and information. The TTY line for callers who are deaf or hearing impaired is (310) 440-7305. The Getty Center is at 1200 Getty Center Drive, Los Angeles, California.

#### **Visiting the Getty Villa**

**From May 28-August 26, 2017**, the Getty Villa is open Wednesday through Monday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturday until 9:00 p.m. It is closed Tuesday and most major holidays. The Villa will be open on Monday, May 29, Memorial Day, and closed on Tuesday, July 4, Independence Day.

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](http://www.getty.edu/visit) or at (310) 440-7300. Parking is \$15 per car, but reduced to \$10 after 3 p.m. 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](http://www.getty.edu).**

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