

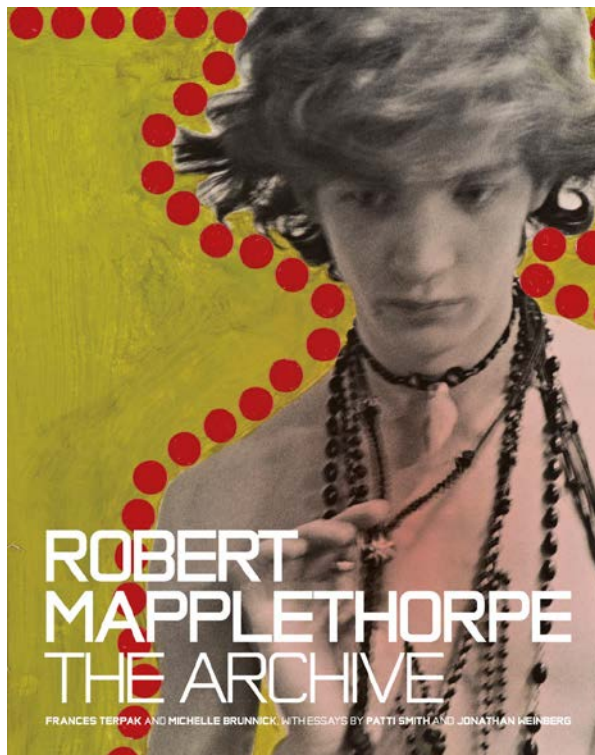
Robert Mapplethorpe

The Archive

“Robert’s archive is a gift for those who seek to comprehend the genesis of his work, his emotional range, his heightened imagination, and the progressive steps of his evolution.”—Patti Smith

Celebrated photographer Robert Mapplethorpe (1946–1989) challenged the limits of censorship and conformity, combining technical and formal mastery with unexpected, often provocative content that secured his place in history. Mapplethorpe’s artistic vision helped shape the social and cultural fabric of the 1970s and 80s and, following his death in 1989 from AIDS, informed the political landscape of the 1990s. His photographic works continue to resonate with audiences all over the world and his biography still piques the imagination of art lovers of all ages.

Throughout his career, Mapplethorpe maintained an archive that preserved studio files and art from every period and vein of his production, including student work, jewelry, sculptures, and commercial assignments. In a set of illuminating essays, from a preface by musician and poet Patti Smith to an incisive piece by art critic Jonathan Weinberg, writers engage with the objects and papers in the archive, offering keen insight into Mapplethorpe’s artistic vision and life. With over four hundred illustrations, *Robert Mapplethorpe: The Archive* surveys a virtually unknown resource that sheds new light on the artist’s motivations, connections, business acumen, and talent as a curator and collector.



AUTHORS

FRANCES TERPAK is curator of photographs at the Getty Research Institute, where she has built the photographic and optical devices collections. She is the author of *Brush and Shutter: Early Photography in China* (Getty Publications, 2011). **MICHELLE BRUNNICK** is a visual artist and critical theorist. She was the Robert Mapplethorpe archive curatorial assistant at the Getty Research Institute.

Getty Research Institute
240 pages, 9 1/2 by 12
inches

ISBN 978-1-60606-470-2

410 color illustrations
Hardcover, Price: US \$49.95 T



Getty Publications

J. Paul Getty Trust
1200 Getty Center Drive
Suite 500
Los Angeles, CA 90049
publicity@getty.edu