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This lavishly illustrated volume offers a fascinating glimpse into Rubens's artistic process

LOS ANGELES—In the 1620s, the Infanta Isabel Clara Eugenia conceived of and commissioned a monumental series of tapestries for a beloved convent near her native Madrid, the Monasterio de las Descalzas Reales (Convent of the Barefoot Royals). Although she had asked her nephew King Phillip IV to return to the convent after being widowed, the Infanta was instead given the job of governor general of the Southern Netherlands. She would never live to see the convent again, or the magnificent tapestries in their proper home.

However, her marvelous commission was a remarkable boon for the convent. To help her create this gift, the Infanta employed Peter Paul Rubens, who was not only widely known at the time as a painter of genius, but also the Infanta's political ally and confidant. Rubens created a series of oil sketches to depict the triumph of the Eucharist, which were in turn used as a basis for twenty tapestries given to the convent. ***Spectacular Rubens: The Triumph of the Eucharist*** (Getty Publications, \$24.95, paperback) offers a multifaceted account of the creation and legacy of these tapestries, which are considered to be some of the best of the seventeenth century. The restoration and recent study of the panels and the tapestries shed new light on the creation, display, and history of the *Eucharist* series. This sumptuously illustrated volume not only provides novel insights into the series, it presents stunning photography of the beautifully restored paintings and tapestries, which are testaments to the brilliance of this master artist of the Baroque period.

Spectacular Rubens is published to coincide with an exhibition of the same name on view at the Getty Center from October 14, 2014, through January 11, 2015.

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Alejandro Vergara is senior curator of Flemish and Northern European paintings at the Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid. **Anne T. Woollett** is curator of paintings at the J. Paul Getty Museum and the author of *Drama and Devotion*, *Miraculous Bouquets*, and *Rembrandt in Southern California*.

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Spectacular Rubens

The Triumph of the Eucharist

Edited by Alejandro Vergara and Anne T. Woollett

J. Paul Getty Museum

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