NEWS FROM GETTY PUBLICATIONS

DATE: June 12, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Book Provides First Technical Study in English of Italian Painter Lucio Fontana

LOS ANGELES— Lucio Fontana (1899–1968) is widely regarded as one of the most influential and innovative post-World War II Italian artists. Lucio Fontana: The Artist's Materials (Getty Publications, $50.00, paperback) presents the first technical study in English of this important painter. Best known for his tagli—slashed, mostly monochromatic canvases—Fontana fashioned a remarkably multifaceted œuvre that encompasses architecture, sculpture, and ceramics, as well as painting. In his quest to expand the vocabulary of his art, Fontana subjected the pictorial surface of his paintings to a remarkable assortment of punctures, gashes, and slashes, as well as adornments of glass fragments, glittering aluminum flakes, and sand.

This richly illustrated book, the third in the Getty Conservation Institute's Artist's Materials series, begins with an informative overview of Fontana’s life and work. Subsequent chapters examine the nine major cycles of work on canvas that constitute his most important achievement, focusing on the physical genesis of these landmark paintings: How did Fontana's philosophical concerns influence his choice of materials? Once he had settled on an aesthetic concept, what precise means did he use to realize it? Did physical constraints imposed by the material force him to adjust his concepts? In considering these questions, this book seeks to illuminate how Fontana's material choices over the course of his career fit into the gradual evolution of idea into form.

-more-
About the Author—**Pia Gottschaller** is a freelance paintings curator and conservator.

Publication Information:

*Lucio Fontana*

**The Artist's Materials**

Pia Gottschaller

Getty Conservation Institute

150 pages, 7 ½ x 10 inches, paperback

76 color and 18 b/w illustrations

ISBN 978-1-60606-114-5, $50.00 [UK £34.99]

Publication Date: August 7, 2012

###

Kindly send two tearsheets of your review when published to Moira Morgan Day, Getty Publications, 1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 500, Los Angeles, CA 90049-1682.

Available at bookstores or through Getty Publications (800-223-3431). Distributed to the trade in the U.S. and Canada by the University of Chicago Press and in the U.K. and Europe by Orca Book Services.