CRITIC AND SCHOLAR ANNETTE MICHELSON DONATES HER PAPERS TO THE GETTY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The GRI has also acquired a drawing and suite of lithographs by Robert Morris from Michelson’s collection and Michelson’s film library

LOS ANGELES – The Getty Research Institute announced today the donation of the archives of renowned critic and scholar Annette Michelson (American, b. 1922). The GRI has also purchased the drawing Blind Time, 1982, and Earth Projects, 1969, a suite of ten lithographs, both by artist Robert Morris (American, b. 1931) from Michelson’s collection. The Getty Research Institute has also purchased Michelson’s extensive film library numbering over fifteen hundred volumes.

“Annette Michelson has played a hugely significant role in the advancement of scholarship in avant-garde visual culture, especially film, around the world and she continues to do so by donating her unparalleled archive to the GRI,” said Thomas W. Gaehghtgens, director of the Getty Research Institute. “The GRI’s holdings related to the New York art world of the 1960s and 70s are especially rich. Her archive helps make it possible for scholars to trace complex connections through the work of many artists and writers of the period. Connections like these grow exponentially with every such acquisition.”

The archive of the critic and scholar documents her decades of prolific and influential engagement with avant-garde production in both contemporary art and experimental cinema. Michelson’s papers, which date back to 1950, include her personal writings and research, as well as correspondence with artistic and intellectual luminaries such as Morris, Susan Sontag, Ad Reinhardt, Yvonne Rainer, Martha Rosler, and her co-editors at Artforum and October.

At the same time, the GRI purchased works of art by Robert Morris (American, b. 1931) from Michelson’s personal collection. Blind Time, 1973, is a drawing dedicated to Michelson by Morris. Michelson was one the Conceptual artist’s earliest champions and the drawing is...
more evidence of their strong relationship. *Earth Projects, 1969*, is a portfolio of ten color lithographs of proposals by Morris that, if realized, would engaged the landscape on a monumental scale, and documents his involvement with the Land Art movement.

"Michelson's influence—as thinker and writer—is pervasive. Her work, especially through *October*, has had a sustained influence on the theoretical inflection of art historical scholarship. Michelson helped introduce many French intellectuals, including Jacques Derrida and Georges Bataille, to an American audience," said John Tain, assistant curator for modern and contemporary collections at the GRI. "And she is one of the most important living scholars of film in the world, having been a key voice for the establishment of cinema studies as an academic field. She has also been a tireless champion of avant-garde cinema, especially from the Soviet Union and the U.S."

**Annette Michelson**

Annette Michelson was born in 1922, and graduated from Brooklyn College in 1948. She enrolled at Columbia University to study with Meyer Schapiro, but instead moved to Paris in 1951. Between 1956 and 1966, she was art editor and critic for the Paris edition of the *New York Herald Tribune*, and also wrote for *Arts Magazine* and *Art International*. Upon her return to the United States she became a writer and editor for *Artforum*, and joined New York University as one of the film department's earliest faculty members. In 1976, she founded the journal *October* with fellow *Artforum* editor Rosalind Krauss. In addition to her numerous essays and articles, Michelson edited *Kino-Eye: the Writings of Dziga Vertov* (1984), and *Cinema, Censorship, and the State: The Writings of Nagisa Oshima* (1992). In recognition of her significant contributions, Michelson received the Frank Jewett Mather award for distinction in art criticism (1974), and fellowships from the National Endowment of the Arts (1974, 1976, 1978), the Center for the Advanced Study of the Visual Arts in Washington D.C. (1986-87), and the Getty Research Institute (1988-89).

###

**The Getty Research Institute** is an operating program of the J. Paul Getty Trust. It serves education in the broadest sense by increasing knowledge and understanding about art and its history through advanced research. The Research Institute provides intellectual leadership through its research, exhibition, and publication programs and provides service to a wide range of scholars worldwide through residencies, fellowships, online resources, and a Research Library. The Research Library—housed in the 201,000-square-foot Research Institute building designed by Richard Meier—is one of the largest art and architecture libraries in the world. The general library collections (secondary sources) include almost 900,000 volumes of books, periodicals, and auction catalogues encompassing the history of Western art and related fields in the humanities. The Research Library's special collections include rare books, artists' journals, sketchbooks, architectural drawings and models, photographs, and archival materials.

**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 Malibu.

**Visiting the Getty Center**
The Getty Center is open Tuesday through Friday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. It is closed Monday and most major holidays. Admission to the Getty Center is always free. Parking is $15 per car, but reduced to $10 after 5 p.m. on Saturdays and for evening events throughout the week. 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.

Additional information is available at www.getty.edu.
Sign up for e-Getty at www.getty.edu/subscribe to receive free monthly highlights of events at the Getty Center and the Getty Villa via e-mail, or visit www.getty.edu for a complete calendar of public programs.