THE GETTY PRESENTS HELEN PASHGIAN: TRANSCENDING THE MATERIAL

A panel discussion with Light and Space artist Helen Pashgian, LACMA curator Carol Eliel and Getty Conservation Institute scientist Rachel Rivenc

Tuesday, June 10, 2014, 7pm at the J. Paul Getty Museum, Getty Center

Los Angeles – Visit the Getty Center on Tuesday, June 10, at 7 pm, for a lively evening of conversation with artist Helen Pashgian, one of the pioneers of the Light and Space movement. Pashgian uses industrial materials such as polyester, epoxy, and acrylic plastics to create sculptures and installations that explore light and perception, as in her current exhibition now on view at LACMA through June 29, "Light Invisible."

Getty Conservation Institute scientist Rachel Rivenc will host a screening of a new short documentary, "Helen Pashgian: Transcending the Material," followed by a discussion with Pashgian about her artwork, materials, and processes, as well as her thoughts on the
conservation of her works for the future. Also participating in the discussion will be Carol Eliel, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) curator who worked with Pashgian on the “Light Invisible” exhibition.

Many of Pashgian’s early works were translucent objects featuring delicate colors and precisely finished surfaces. As the viewer moves around them, the perception of these works shifts; they seem at times to be solid forms, and at others, to be dissolving into space.

In addition to her current exhibition at LACMA, Pashgian is the subject of the new short documentary film to be screened during the evening, which explores the conservation of her works as part of the Getty Conservation Institute’s Art in L.A., a study of materials and fabrication processes used by Los Angeles-based artists since the 1950s and the implications these materials and processes have for conservation. The project, part of the GCI’s Modern and Contemporary Art Research Initiative, seeks to engage a wide mix of the Los Angeles art community—first and foremost artists, but also fabricators, conservators, and curators—in a creative dialogue about broader issues in the conservation of contemporary art.

*Helen Pashgian: Transcending the Material* will be held on Tuesday, June 10, at 7pm in the J. Paul Getty’s Museum Lecture Hall. Tickets are free, but reservations are recommended. Parking at the Getty is $10 after 5 pm. Visit www.getty.edu to make reservations, or call (310) 440-7300.

**About the Panel**

**Helen Pashgian** is known today as one of the main pioneers of the Light and Space movement. Born in Pasadena, she completed her undergraduate work at Pomona College before heading to Boston University for her master’s degree. She returned to the Los Angeles area in the 1960s and joined a number of artists in exploring the artistic possibilities of industrial materials, such as plastics and resins.

**Carol S. Eliel** is curator of modern art at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, where she has worked since 1984. Most recently she curated the exhibition *Helen Pashgian: Light Invisible* and is currently working on a John Altoon retrospective that opens in June. From 2011-13 she served as President of the Association of Art Museum Curators (AAMC) of which she is now a lifetime trustee.

**Rachel Rivenc** is an assistant scientist at the Getty Conservation Institute and leads Art in L.A., a research project to study the materials and fabrication processes used by Los Angeles-based artists since the 1950s and the implications these materials and processes have for conservation. The book based on her PhD dissertation *Made in Los Angeles: Materials, Processes and the Birth of West Coast Minimalism* will be available from Getty Publications in 2015.

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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.

The Getty Conservation Institute works internationally to advance conservation practice in the visual arts—broadly interpreted to include objects, collections, architecture, and sites. The Institute serves the conservation community through scientific research, education and training, model field projects, and the dissemination of the results of both its own work and the work of others in the field. In all its endeavors, the GCI focuses on the creation and delivery of knowledge that will benefit the professional conservation community through scientific research, education and training, model field projects, and the dissemination of the results of both its own work and the work of others in the field. In all its endeavors, the GCI focuses on the creation and delivery of knowledge that will benefit the professionals and organizations responsible for the conservation of the world's cultural heritage.

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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 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.
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