



DISCUSSION SERIES

Personal Preference, Collection Policy, and the Historical Record: Public and Private Collectors

The Getty Center for the History of Art and the Humanities
Seventh-Floor Auditorium
401 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90401-1455
Tuesday, July 25, 1995, 3:00–6:00 p.m.
Reservations are required.

Please join us for the third panel discussion in the series **L.A. Archives and Collections: In Search of Urban History**.

Public and private collections are continuously used to produce new knowledge about the cultural heritage of our cities. These resources are traces of a collective or individual past that help us understand the present and articulate a meaningful vision for the future. However the process of collecting is highly subjective and often influenced by institutional or personal preferences, social policies, and what is culturally valued or privileged. The objective of this discussion is to examine where and how these subjective influences intersect with a sense of civic responsibility to the historical record of a city, focusing particularly on Los Angeles.

L.A. Archives and Collections combines the interests of two Getty Center research projects—"Imaging the City" and "L.A. as Subject"—that explore the formation and display of urban identities throughout the Americas. This panel will examine four case studies representing both private and public collection practices within the context of the following questions: How do we define the culture of collecting? How are private and public collectors today responding to the increasing desire of researchers and the general public to locate the history of diverse groups of citizens that are demographically visible, yet rendered relatively anonymous in the official historical record? How do corporate and civic responsibilities influence the content of private and public collections? The panel brings together a group of distinguished speakers who will engage these questions from personal and institutional points of view. The discussion will be led by guest moderator Charles Merewether, a Special Collections curator at the Getty Center.

Panelists: **Paul Apodaca**, Curator, Native American Art, Bowers Museum

Mayme Clayton, Founding Director, Western States Black Research and Education Center

Carolyn Kozo Cole, Senior Librarian, Photograph Collection, Los Angeles Central Library; and
Director, Shades of L.A. Photograph Project

Kevin Mulroy, Director of the Research Center, Gene Autry Museum of Western Heritage

Moderator: **Charles Merewether**, Special Collections Curator, Getty Center

For reservations, please call the Getty Center at (310) 451-6526.