

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Archives, collections, monuments, and cultural practices are all vehicles through which diverse communities and individuals from the past and present speak to us. *L.A. as Subject* is a four-year research project designed to facilitate the critical recovery of historical narratives about Los Angeles. Its goal is to illuminate diverse and unique archives and collections and examine their role in the transmission of cultural values through lectures, symposia, exhibitions, and public forums.



# AS SUBJECT:

## THE TRANSFORMATIVE CULTURE OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITIES



## WORK IN PROGRESS

### DATE:

January 13, 1997

### SPONSORED BY:

The Getty Research Institute for the  
History of Art and the Humanities  
Seventh-Floor Auditorium  
401 Wilshire Blvd.  
Santa Monica, California

### OVERVIEW

*L.A. as Subject: The Transformative Culture of Los Angeles Communities* is a four-year research project initiated in 1995. It examines how we approach research on the development and cultural heritage of the Los Angeles region. Designed to emphasize resource development, this project acknowledges the many issues and obstacles inherent in the study of Los Angeles--particularly as general interest in the historical and contemporary identity of the L.A. region continues to increase in a variety of sectors often resulting in a sort of "cottage industry." *L.A. as Subject* addresses these issues by collaborating with diverse organizations, institutions, and communities to enhance or develop resources that provide a context for engaging in the cultural recovery of Los Angeles history and encourage the preservation, conservation, and display of community history. Through various project components, *L.A. as Subject* participates in community partnerships with local universities, cultural institutions, and communities to contribute to:

- (1) Identification and coordination of less visible cultural materials about the Los Angeles region.
- (2) Development of new resource tools that will make the material culture of little-known archives and collections more accessible to scholars, researchers, and community historians producing academic, artistic, and community work on Los Angeles.
- (3) Facilitation of public and invitational forums, and lectures for critical inquiry regarding historical and contemporary topics on Los Angeles.

### GOALS

- o To identify and develop material resources that support new scholarship on the Los Angeles region
- o To facilitate a network of institutional and community relationships that promote greater sharing of historical resources among organizations
- o To engage the public in the process of critical inquiry about the region through community exhibitions, public forums, and lectures
- o To document and archive the development of the *L.A. as Subject* project as a resource for future research and/or replication

AS THE DEVELOPMENT OF "VIRTUAL" SPACES AND COMMUNITIES TRANSFORMS OUR UNDERSTANDING OF URBAN CULTURE, WE MUST CONTINUE TO EXPLORE "ACTUAL" PLACES, ARTIFACTS, AND CULTURAL PRACTICES OF DIVERSE LOS ANGELES COMMUNITIES THAT GIVE MEANING TO LIFE IN THE CITY.

For more information about *L.A. as Subject*,  
please contact:  
Public Programs  
The Getty Research Institute for the  
History of Art and the Humanities  
401 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 700  
Santa Monica, CA 90401-1455  
Information Hotline: (310) 451-6526  
World Wide Web Site: <http://www.getty.edu/gri>



## PROJECT COMPONENTS

Los Angeles Archives and Collections Resource Directory: The resource directory combines the expertise of scholars producing work on Los Angeles and the practical experience of community historians and planners to compile new information about diverse or unique historical resources on Los Angeles. The purpose of the directory is to illuminate little-known archives and collections held by individuals, museums, libraries, community organizations, businesses, churches, and other academic and cultural institutions. It is intended to serve as a map to accessing cultural materials that can provide greater dimension and clarity to our understanding of the richly diverse history and heritage of the Los Angeles region.

The *Los Angeles Archives and Collections Resource Directory* will be the product of research that is surveying the archival and collection holdings of a cross-section of organizations, universities, and institutions representing diverse sectors, communities, and cultures in Los Angeles. This research is informed by an advisory forum of archivists, planners, community activists, and local scholars who are contributing their expertise to the content development of the directory. The directory is being developed as a conventional publication with companion on-line access. When complete, the directory will include a projected 250 entries that profile diverse archives and collections representing the cultural inheritance of the Los Angeles region. The *Los Angeles Archives and Collections Resource Directory* will be released to the public in Fall, 1997.

To support research for the directory, a "Resource Databank" has been developed that includes four databases structured to function interdependently to fill gaps in knowledge about local resources and identify points of access to cultural materials available to support new research and scholarship on the Los Angeles region.

The resource databank is considered a work in progress, though various components are currently made available to select groups as pre-publication resources for special use. A few examples of special use include: (1) all components of the databank will be made available as a pre-directory resource in October 1996 to scholars in residence at the Research Institute who have been invited to participate in the Institute's "Perspectives on L.A." scholar year; (2) select databases have been used as a resource in the collaborative partnership that the Research Institute has entered into with the Getty Information Institute's, *L.A. CultureNet* project; and (3) the L.A. contacts database continues to be shared with internal and external programs for cooperative programming. The database categories are:

- o L.A. Contacts Database: a compilation of 649 individuals and organizations targeted for participation in the L.A. as Subject archives and collections survey. The list was compiled from various mailing lists and contact rosters developed by Research Institute staff, referrals from survey respondents, and rosters shared with the L.A. as Subject project by collaborating institutions such as California State University Northridge, Urban Archives Center and Los Angeles Central Library, Shades of L.A. Photography project. This database functions as both a current mailing list and as a project tracking tool. In addition to producing up-to-date mailing labels, the database is programmed to generate reports, including relatively detailed profiles of survey responses, profiles on individuals and groups of respondent organizations, and ethnic/geographic/sector profiles of survey recipients and respondents.
- o Archives and Collections Survey Database: produces and manages respondent records for the L.A. as Subject archives and collections survey. Distribution of the survey began in November 1995 and to date has been distributed to approximately 596 institutions, organizations, and individuals. The project goal is to achieve a 50% return rate by October 1996 and an 80% return rate by December 1996. To date 163 surveys have been completed and returned. A follow-up process implemented in March, 1996, has accelerated the return rate. The project attempts to retain a "first voice" quality in the translation of survey responses to the database record that will be used to construct the directory text. To achieve this, the survey record and directory text will be edited in three phases with the participation of the project staff, respondent organization, project advisory forum, and Research Institute editorial staff.
- o L.A. Bibliography Database: contains over 1,500 citations of: 1) English and non-English articles and dissertation abstracts on diverse topics concerning Los Angeles; 2) books in any language on Los Angeles life, culture, geography, architecture, and history; and 3) visual and media arts about the region including photography, exhibitions, television, radio, and film. Approximately 800 citations have been categorized by cultural/ethnic group and subdivided by topic areas such as community development, art, education, crime, politics, history, architecture, health, etc.

This database was developed through staff research, supported in part by the Research Institute's Resource Collections. Sources have included: Melvyl, Orion, RLIN, Dialog, Questel, and staff and outside referrals. Although this database is a work in progress, specific searches have been made available internally on disk. The L.A. Bibliography is being compiled from diverse sources to support, as a priority, the work of the L.A. as Subject project, and as an additional resource for internal use as the Getty Center Institutes and programs venture deeper into L.A. programming. Though this bibliography is not intended for an external public, an excerpt of the bibliography identifying specific sources used to inform the work of our project will be included as appropriate citation and reference in the appendix of the published directory.

- o Academic Resources Database: identifies and compiles information about classes, seminars, conferences, and scholars that focus on the study of Los Angeles. This database provides brief descriptions of work in progress, seminar/class content, conference agendas, and contact information. To date the database includes 60 completed records, 15 records in process of data entry, and 22 referrals currently being researched. The academic resources in this database are used to inform the project about those engaged in local work on Los Angeles and to identify potential lecturers, panelists, and potential program partnerships.

Public Dialogue: L.A. as Subject is committed to involving diverse community and academic publics in the dialogue and examination of important issues concerning the Los Angeles region. Though this project is fundamentally research based, with an emphasis on resource development, it incorporates the public into that research process by sponsoring forums, lectures, and exhibitions.

The first series of L.A. as Subject lectures was presented in 1995, in collaboration with another Research Institute project, *Imaging the City in the Americas*. The lecture series explored the formation and display of urban identities from three perspectives: dominant or highly mediated institutions as consumers and cultural translators; artists and scholars as users of archives and collections; and private collectors and medium-sized institutions as managers and collectors of cultural materials. The second lecture series which begins in January 1997 examines the transformative culture of Los Angeles communities. The first lecture in this series will examine "*Los Angeles: Global Village or Ethnic Enclaves*." The second lecture in the series will explore "*Topography of the L.A. Metropolis: Time, Space, & Transformation*."

The third lecture in the series explores the contemporary L.A. narrative represented in literary art from two perspectives: apocalypse and utopia. The working title is "*Apocalypse & Utopia: L.A. Narrative of the Late 20th Century.*"

L.A. as Subject will also sponsor two public forums in spring 1997, "*Legacy & Changing Role of the Historical Society,*" and "*Preservations, Conservation, and Display of Local History: Responsibility and Leadership of Community Cultural Institutions.*" During the opening year of the Getty Center, L.A. as Subject will accelerate an off-site public component to the project through lectures, presentations, and a public forum on "*Mapping L.A.: A Global Prototype,*" sponsored by the Research Institute in partnership with organizations and local universities at various venues in the city. In 1998 L.A. as Subject will sponsor a series of community exhibitions of cultural materials identified during the research phase of the project, in partnership with community organizations and cultural institutions.

Exhibitions: The Los Angeles community exhibitions will display select community archives and collections that represent key moments in Los Angeles history and provide new insights to the cultural patrimony and transformative nature of L.A. communities. The materials will be displayed in physical and virtual formats, developed through a collaboration between the Research Institute's L.A. as Subject project and the Information Institute's *L.A. CultureNet* project. This collaboration uses the resources of both projects to link two conceptual ideas, "Community Repositories" as defined by L.A. as Subject, and "Information Centers" as defined by *L.A. CultureNet*, in an innovative display of cultural materials. Research currently underway will support plans for an exhibitions prototype, recommendations about potential exhibition venues, cultural materials to be exhibited, and collaborating organizations/individuals. Planning for this exhibition uses the L.A. archives and collections database to identify potential exhibition materials.

Project Documentation: The L.A. as Subject project will be documented through development of a project archive and collection of audio and visual materials chronicling activities of the project.

## COLLABORATION

The increasing attention given to Los Angeles as a serious area of study by universities and research institutes is creating many unique opportunities for collaboration and sharing of resources. It has also become clear to all participants seriously engaged in the study of Los Angeles, that collaboration is an appropriate means to examine this complex subject. One method used by this project to promote collaboration is the recent convening of an *Advisory Forum*, which brings together an invited group of thirty directors, managers, and scholars involved in the formation, management and use of archives, libraries, study centers, and institutions that have custodial relationships to cultural materials about the Los Angeles region. The short term objective of the Advisory Forum is to create an opportunity for the L.A. as Subject program to benefit from the expertise of those who manage and work with material culture about Los Angeles. The long-term objectives are (1) to establish a continuing forum in which protocols for sharing cultural resources and archival information about Los Angeles can be established, and (2) to encourage a sense of partnership among organizations, individuals, and other entities engaged in the study or development of cultural knowledge about Los Angeles.

Existing or developing collaborations between the Research Institute and other organizations include: Huntington Library, Los Angeles Central Library's Shades of L.A. Photographic project, CSUN Urban Archives Center, USC's Special Collections Library and ISLA project, CSULA's Pat Brown Institute, major Los Angeles culturally-focused museums (i.e., California Afro-American Museum, Japanese American National Museum, Korean American National Museum, Mexican American Museum of History and Culture, and Skirball Museum), community cultural centers, and diverse scholars who produce work on Los Angeles.

New opportunities for partnership are also emerging within the Getty Center as other Getty Institutes place an enhanced focus on Los Angeles programming. A special project focus has been placed on collaboration with the Research Institutes Scholars and Seminars program during the L.A. scholar year. The project will make the complete resource databank available to the scholars when they arrive this Fall. *L.A. CultureNet* is another special collaboration. The goal of this collaboration is to bring the resources illuminated by the project research to life through the technological projects of *L.A. CultureNet*. It is also hoped that this collaboration will expand the dimensions of our public components by using the natural intersections between the two projects found in lectures, and forums being planned by L.A. as Subject to incorporate related dialogue on digital/electronic communications. In addition to sharing resources, collaboration with *L.A. CultureNet* over the next few years will concentrate on planning and development of the Los Angeles community exhibitions series scheduled for 1998.

## TIMELINE SUMMARY

L.A. as Subject completed year one (FY96), with a primary concentration on development of the Los Angeles Resources Databank, particularly the archives and collections database, and formation of internal and external collaborative relationships. The focus of year two (FY97) is on completing the L.A. archives and collections survey database and positioning it as an accessible resource for scholars invited to participate in the Research Institute's scholar year, "*Perspectives on Los Angeles: Narratives, Images, and History*"; design and production of the conventionally published and on-line versions of the "*Los Angeles Archives and Collections Resource Directory*"; and implementation of the project's public component through a series of lectures and forums. In year three (FY98), the *Los Angeles Archives and Collections Resource Directory* will be released to the public, coinciding with the opening of the Getty Center, and a public component, primarily off-site, will contribute to a community presence of the Getty during the opening year of the new site. L.A. as Subject will culminate in year four (FY99) with a series of exhibitions on community archives and collections, including a virtual component presented in collaboration with *L.A. CultureNet* and community partner organizations/institutions.

### Contact Information

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Research Institute for the History of Art and the Humanities  
URL  
<http://www.getty.edu/gri/public>

## LECTURE SERIES

Archives, collections, monuments, and cultural practices are all vehicles through which diverse communities and individuals from the past and present speak to us. *L.A. as Subject* is a four-year research project designed to facilitate the critical recovery of historical narratives about Los Angeles. Its goal is to illuminate diverse and unique archives and collections and examine their role in the transmission of cultural values through lectures, symposia, exhibitions, and public forums.



# L.A. AS SUBJECT: THE TRANSFORMATIVE CULTURE OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITIES

## L.A.: Global Village or Ethnic Enclaves?

### DATE:

Monday, January 27, 1997

### TIME:

4:00–6:00 p.m.

Followed by a reception

### PLACE:

Getty Research Institute for the  
History of Art and the Humanities  
Seventh-Floor Auditorium  
401 Wilshire Blvd.  
Santa Monica, California

*Validated parking will be available  
at the Research Institute Fourth  
Street entrance.*

RSVP (310) 451-6526

or (310) 458-9811 ext. 1366

Public dialogue is of central importance to our collective understanding of the Los Angeles region. *L.A.: Global Village or Ethnic Enclaves?* is the first in a series of three discussions sponsored by the Getty Research Institute for the History of Art and the Humanities in conjunction with the four-year research project, *L.A. as Subject*. The series, “The Transformative Culture of Los Angeles Communities,” provides opportunities for members of diverse communities and academic and cultural institutions to discuss important topics and issues that have emerged as a result of research on archives and collections that represent the rich cultural plurality and heritage of the region.

*L.A.: Global Village or Ethnic Enclave:?* brings together five dynamic authors and cultural critics for a conversation about the social, political, and cultural aspects of how we form and practice “community” in the Los Angeles region. The guest speakers are:

Ruben Martinez, moderator, KCET affiliate and noted cultural critic and writer; Lynell George (invited), journalist with the *Los Angeles Times* and author of *No Crystal Stair: African Americans in the City of Angeles*; Peter Theroux, frequent contributing writer to *National Geographic* and author of *Translating L.A.: A Tour of the Rainbow City*; Ron Wakabayashi, executive director of the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, who is engaged in continuing research on racially motivated hate crimes in Los Angeles County; and Marisela Norte, staff member at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) and noted poet who writes about the city as seen from the windows of the RTD.

The questions that they will consider include: To what extent are we politically and geographically polarized into ethnic enclaves, or do we function as a “global village” in forming our sense of civic and community identity? What does the research on racially motivated hate crimes tell us about how we live with one another in the Los Angeles region, and how do we create a sense of cultural place and belonging? Is the transformative nature of Los Angeles “really” unique in its cultural, community, and ethnic complexities? What is the projected future for “community” in the region as Los Angeles enters the new millennium as one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse cities in the world?

This event is open to the public and will be of special interest to the staff and affiliates of cultural institutions, community organizations, and local colleges and universities, Getty Center staff, and Getty scholars. Attendance is limited to 110, and reservations are required. The discussion will be followed by a reception in the Getty Research Institute’s seventh-floor gallery, where “*Photographs from Central Los Angeles*,” by visiting Getty scholar Camilo José Vergara, is on exhibit. Please join us at the Getty Research Institute for what promises to be an interesting and provocative conversation about our collective sense of community.

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# L.A. AS SUBJECT:

## THE TRANSFORMATIVE CULTURE OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITIES



### Topography of the L.A. Metropolis: Time, Space, & Transformation

**DATE:**

Monday, March 17, 1997

**TIME:**

4:00–6:00 p.m.

Followed by a reception

**PLACE:**

Getty Research Institute for the  
History of Art and the Humanities  
Seventh-Floor Auditorium  
401 Wilshire Blvd.  
Santa Monica, California

*Validated parking will be available  
at the Research Institute Fourth  
Street entrance.*

RSVP (310) 451-6526

Public dialogue is of central importance to our collective understanding of the Los Angeles region. *Topography of the L.A. Metropolis: Time, Space, & Transformation* is the second in a series of three discussions sponsored by the Getty Research Institute for the History of Art and the Humanities in conjunction with the four-year research project, *L.A. as Subject*. The series, “The Transformative Culture of Los Angeles Communities,” provides opportunities for members of diverse communities and academic and cultural institutions to discuss important topics and issues that have emerged as a result of research on archives and collections that represent the rich cultural plurality and heritage of the Los Angeles region.

*Topography of the L.A. Metropolis: Time, Space, & Transformation* brings together five scholars, urban planners, and community historians to examine the urbanization and cultural transformation of the Los Angeles region. The guest speakers are:

Moderator: Dr. Leo Estrada, associate professor of urban planning, Advanced Policy Institute, UCLA, and director of the North American Integration and Development Center; Randy Young, curator for the Pacific Palisades Historical Society and author of numerous publications, whose current work in progress is “Santa Monica Canyon: A Walk Through History”; William (Bill) Mason, noted historian specializing in California History and past curator of history for the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County; Rick Moss, curator of history for the California African American Museum and historian specializing in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Los Angeles ethnic history; and Linda Wong, J.D., general counsel for Rebuild L.A. (RLA) and director of workforce development for L.A. Prosper Community Partners, past national director of Immigrant Civil Rights Program, and regional counsel for the Southern California office of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF).

The panel will explore how Los Angeles has evolved from an oasis for indigenous inhabitants to a cosmopolitan icon of the late twentieth century. The discussion will center on defining moments in Los Angeles history, including: the environmental landscape of pre-history Los Angeles; the inroads made by Spanish settlers; the conflicts, challenges, and crises arising from late nineteenth-century urbanization; the rise and decline of industrialization; labor in World War II, in-migration, and displacement; the social implications of civil rights legislation on community migration patterns; and the impact of shifting immigration law on late twentieth-century Los Angeles.

This event is open to the public and will be of special interest to the staff and affiliates of cultural institutions, community organizations, and local colleges and universities, Getty Center staff, and Getty Scholars. Attendance is limited to 110, and reservations are required. The discussion will be followed by a reception in the Getty Research Institute’s seventh-floor gallery, where “*Photographs from Central Los Angeles*,” by visiting scholar Camilo José Vergara, is on exhibit. Please join us at the Getty Research Institute for what promises to be a very interesting and informative discussion about the cultural transformation of the Los Angeles region.

For more information about *L.A. as Subject*,

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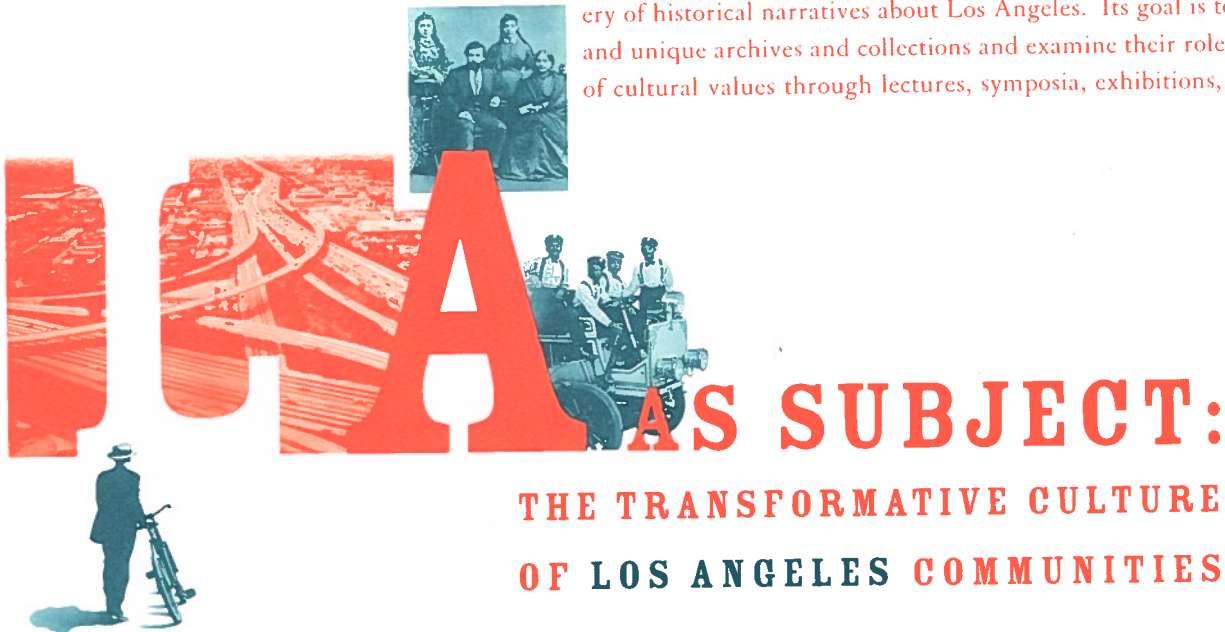
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Photograph of Miriam Mathews / Korean Bell and Bellify of Friendship, 1976. Photograph of Black Los Angeles City fire fighters, 1908. Courtesy of Miriam Mathews / Korean Bell and Bellify of Friendship, 1976. Photograph of William (Bill) Mason, noted historian specializing in California History and past curator of history for the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. Museum of Natural History / Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. Photograph of Rick Moss, curator of history for the California African American Museum and historian specializing in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Los Angeles ethnic history. Photograph of Linda Wong, J.D., general counsel for Rebuild L.A. (RLA) and director of workforce development for L.A. Prosper Community Partners, past national director of Immigrant Civil Rights Program, and regional counsel for the Southern California office of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF).

## LECTURE SERIES

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## Apocalypse and Utopia: L.A. Narrative of the Late Twentieth Century

DATE:  
Monday, April 28, 1997

TIME:  
4:00–6:00 p.m.  
Followed by a reception

PLACE:  
The Getty Center  
1200 Getty Center Drive  
Auditorium  
Los Angeles, California

RESERVATIONS:  
Advance reservations required  
RSVP (310) 451-6534

This event is being held in the main auditorium of the new Getty Center, located at 1200 Getty Center Drive off the 405 Freeway. The Getty Center will not officially open to the public until December 1997. Attendance at this event is by advance reservation only. Reservations must be made by Thursday, April 24. Parking is limited and carpooling is encouraged.

Public dialogue is of central importance to our collective understanding of the Los Angeles region. *Apocalypse and Utopia: L.A. Narrative of the Late Twentieth Century* is the final presentation in a series of three public conversations sponsored by the Getty Research Institute for the History of Art and the Humanities in conjunction with *L.A. as Subject: The Transformative Culture of Los Angeles Communities*, one of the institute's comparative culture and community research projects. This series provides an opportunity for public conversation on topics that have emerged through research on archives and collections representing the rich cultural inheritance and plurality of this region.

In the final quarter of the twentieth century the apocalyptic literary genre of the L.A. narrative has intensified. The evidence is found in the abundance of prophetic story lines or social critiques concerning the destruction of Los Angeles by a range of plausible forces including earthquake, ecocatastrophe, invasion, social implosion, and contemporary weapons of war. Simultaneously there has been a distinct decline in the utopian purview of the L.A. narrative. In view of this trend we are challenged to ask: What is the literary archive being formed by contemporary writers about Los Angeles, and what will this archive tell future generations about how we imagined and lived in the L.A. region of the late twentieth century?

*Apocalypse and Utopia: L.A. Narrative of the Late Twentieth Century* brings together a distinguished panel of writers in a moderated discussion to explore these questions, by examining the personal meaning of their work as cultural producers, and the role of their work as public culture within the prevailing literary genres of the L.A. narrative. The guest speakers are:

Moderator: Hector Tobar, writer for the *Los Angeles Times* Metro section, former Features Editor of *LA Weekly*, and member of the Pulitzer Prize-winning reporting team that covered the Los Angeles rebellion of 1992; Octavia Butler, esteemed author of numerous novels including the notable *Parable of the Sower and Kindred*, recipient of the 1995 MacArthur Grant and science fiction's two highest honors—the Hugo and Nebula Awards, and currently a Visiting Scholar at the Getty Research Institute; Mike Davis, independent scholar of history and urban planning, author of the internationally acclaimed *City of Quartz: Excavating the Future of Los Angeles*, and whose current work-in-progress explores the literary destruction of Los Angeles, he is presently a Scholar-in-Residence at the Getty Research Institute; Gerald Horne, Professor and Director of the Institute of African-American Research at the University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill, author of numerous books including *Fire This Time: The Watts Uprising and the 1960s*, and whose current work-in-progress is *Scenes from the Class Struggle in Hollywood*, he was a 1995 Fulbright Scholar of History at the University of Zimbabwe; and, Carolyn See, Adjunct Professor of English at UCLA, author of various novels including *Making History* and *Golden Days*, a recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship in Fiction and the *Los Angeles Times*' Robert Kirsch Body of Work Award, she is currently a Visiting Scholar at the Getty Research Institute.

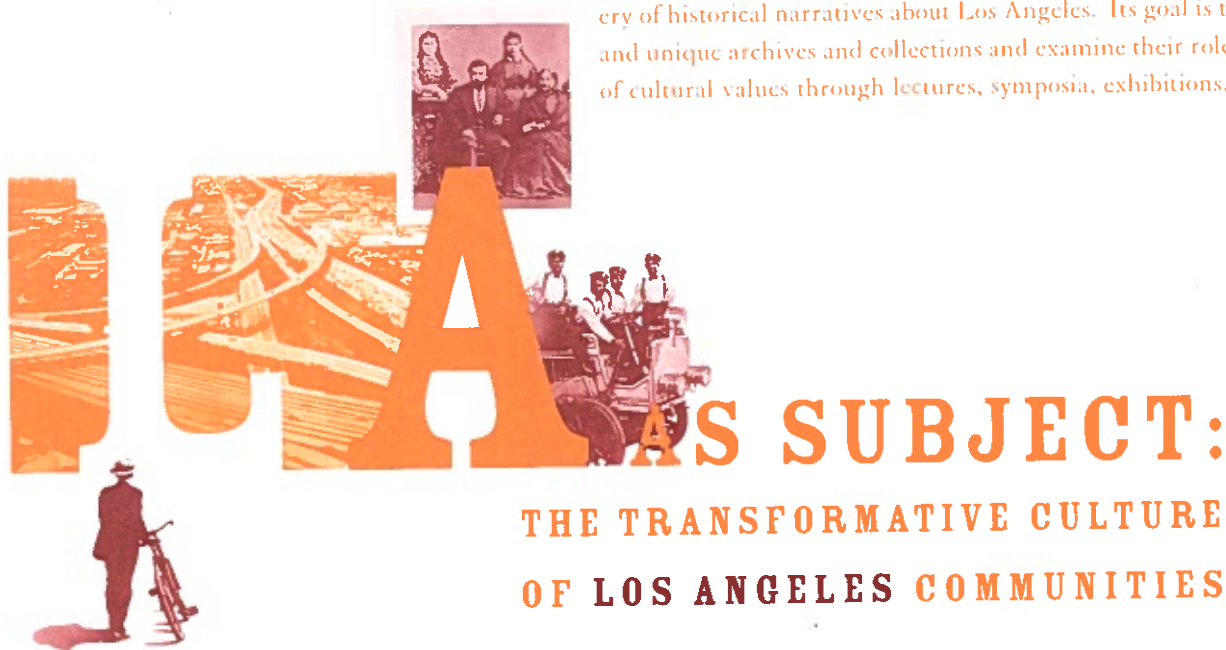
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## LECTURE

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# Cultural Recovery in Early Korean Printing History: Eastern and Western Canon in Dialogue

**DATE:**  
Thursday, January 29, 1998

**TIME:**  
6:00–8:00 p.m.  
Followed by a reception  
(Exhibition Gallery open  
until 9:30 p.m.)

**PLACE:**  
Santa Monica College  
Art Lecture Hall, Suite 214  
1900 Pico Boulevard  
Santa Monica, California

**RESERVATIONS:**  
Not required

**GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION:**  
(310) 440-6698

Validated parking will be available  
at Santa Monica College, Pico  
Boulevard entrance (adjacent to  
the art gallery complex).

Public dialogue is of central importance to our collective understanding of the Los Angeles region. Cultural heritage issues are global, and yet by putting them in comparative perspective we deepen our understanding of the region. This lecture, entitled "Cultural Recovery in Early Korean Printing History: Eastern and Western Canon in Dialogue," examines questions of historical authority in the recovery of Eastern artifacts, which reposition Western scholarly points of historical reference. The lecture explores newly recovered contributions of classical cultures to the multiple contexts of human history.

### Speakers:

The guest lecturer is Kyung-Jun Ra, Eastern Printing History Scholar and Museum Curator, Chongju Early Printing Museum, Republic of Korea; the respondent is David Zeidberg, Western Printing History Scholar and Avery Director, The Huntington Library. The discussion moderator and translator is Richard D. McBride II, Cultural Consultant, Los Angeles Korean Cultural Center.

Johannes Gutenberg, the German printer of the Gutenberg *Bible*—a vellum copy of which is held by the Huntington Library—is credited in Western culture with the invention of printing with movable type. What is not generally known is that Korean artisans invented movable type approximately seventy years before Gutenberg. The *Puljo Chikchi Simch'ye Yojob*, a fourteenth-century book by a Buddhist priest named Paegun, was officially recognized in 1972 by UNESCO as the first book in the world printed with metal movable type. These historical artifacts of Eastern culture challenge the Western canon of early printing history. Importantly, this lecture begins a critical public dialogue concerning how we: (1) integrate new knowledge into historical frames of reference; (2) respect the role and place of all archeological, artifactual, and archival contributions to a particular discipline; and, (3) position documents and cultural artifacts, which may challenge Western ideas of academic canon, to inform us about the canon of human history.

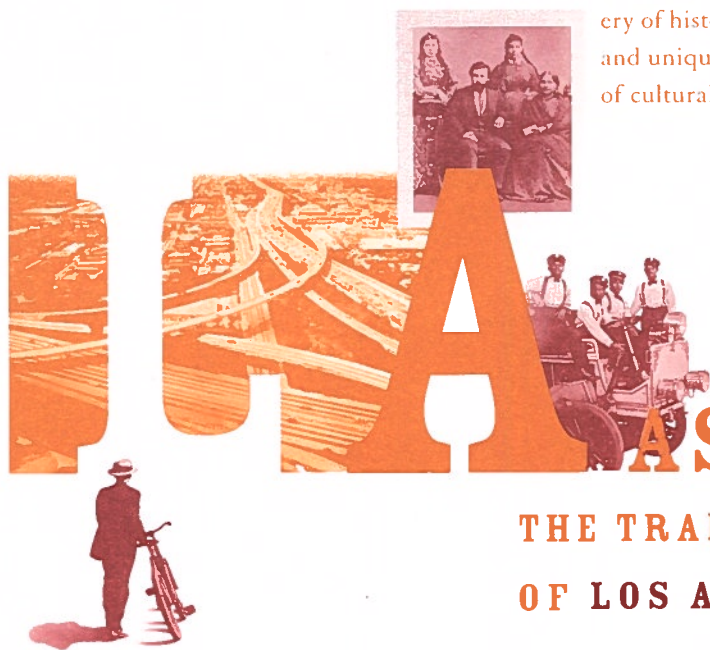
This lecture is sponsored by the Getty Research Institute for the History of Art and the Humanities, *L.A. as Subject* project, in partnership with Santa Monica College, and the Korean Cultural Center of Los Angeles. It is presented in conjunction with an exhibition from the Republic of Korea on early Eastern printing culture entitled, "*Study the Past, Create the Future*," currently on display through January 31, 1998, at the Santa Monica College Art Gallery. The exhibition features early movable print materials including prints, documents, and dioramas from the Early Printing Museum in Chongju City, South Korea, located on the site of Hungduksa Temple—a museum that also holds the world's oldest movable print books, including a reprint of the *Selected Sermons of Buddhist Sages and Zen Masters*, printed with metal type. The lecture will be followed by a discussion with the audience. An exhibition viewing and reception will be hosted by Santa Monica College after the lecture.

AS THE DEVELOPMENT OF "VIRTUAL" SPACES AND COMMUNITIES TRANSFORMS OUR UNDERSTANDING OF URBAN CULTURE, WE MUST CONTINUE TO EXPLORE "ACTUAL" PLACES, ARTIFACTS, AND CULTURAL PRACTICES OF DIVERSE LOS ANGELES COMMUNITIES THAT GIVE MEANING TO LIFE IN THE CITY.

For more information about *L.A. as Subject*,  
please contact:  
Local and Comparative Research  
The Getty Research Institute for the  
History of Art and the Humanities  
1200 Getty Center Drive  
Suite 1100  
Los Angeles, CA 90049-1688  
World Wide Web site: <http://www.getty.edu/gri>



Archives, collections, monuments, and cultural practices are all vehicles through which diverse communities and individuals from the past and present speak to us. *L.A. as Subject* is a four-year research project designed to facilitate the critical recovery of historical narratives about Los Angeles. Its goal is to illuminate diverse and unique archives and collections and examine their role in the transmission of cultural values through lectures, symposia, exhibitions, and public forums.



## L.A. AS SUBJECT: THE TRANSFORMATIVE CULTURE OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITIES

### Arabs and Jews Beyond Boundaries: Culture, Identity, and Community

DATE:  
Tuesday, June 2, 1998

TIME:  
5:30 p.m. Reception  
6:45 p.m. Musical Performance  
7:15 to 9:00 p.m. Dialogue

PLACE:  
Los Angeles Central Library  
Mark Taper Auditorium  
630 West 5th Street  
Los Angeles, California

PROGRAM INFORMATION and  
RSVP: (310) 440-6698

PARKING: \$5.50  
Library Garage only  
Flower Street entrance

SPONSORS:  
Getty Research Institute for the History of  
Art and the Humanities  
and  
National Association of Sephardic Artists,  
Writers, and Intellectuals (IVRI-NASAWI)

On June 2 at the Los Angeles Central Library, writers, scholars, and cultural leaders from the Jewish and Arab communities will come together to discuss the nature of their communities and their interaction in the Los Angeles region. The purpose of this event is not to provide a forum for political or religious debate. Rather it seeks to examine shared experiences, identity formation, and common cultural indicators of these two "diaspora" communities.

*Arabs and Jews Beyond Boundaries: Culture, Identity, and Community* offers the public a rare opportunity to witness leading figures from two vibrant communities, which together number more than one million people, contextualize and practice their sense of community within the social and cultural ecology of the Los Angeles region.

This event will be moderated by its co-producer Jordan Elgrably, founder of IVRI-NASAWI (National Association of Sephardic Artists, Writers, and Intellectuals and IVRI Magazine) and author of a novel on Arab-Jewish identity titled *Island of Strangers* (1996). Diana Abu-Jaber, author of *Arabian Jazz* (1993) and the forthcoming *Memories of Birth*, will read excerpts from her books and discuss the challenges of living between Arab and American cultures. Elie Chalala, a native of Lebanon and editor and publisher of *Aljadid*, a quarterly magazine of Arab arts and culture, will provide an overview of Arab culture in the American diaspora and discuss his work. Gina Hamoui-Ross, a native of Syria, will discuss how her experience of many "border-crossings" has been integrated and interwoven into her unique multicultural psychotherapy practice and has influenced the formation of her own identity. Myer J. Sankary, attorney, peace activist and mediator, and the co-chair of the *American Friends of "Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam,"* a village in Israel where Arabs and Jews live together, will discuss his own cross-cultural identity and perspectives on developing a sense of community from fractious parts. The event will begin with a performance lecture by noted musician/composer Nabil Azzam, an accomplished violinist, oud player, and conductor/musical director of the Galilee Orchestra in Nazareth, Israel. He will play both classical Arab compositions and unique renditions of Sephardic Jewish music while discussing his blend of Western and Eastern styles and technique.

This public dialogue is sponsored by IVRI-NASAWI, a Jewish multicultural association emphasizing Sephardic and Mizrahi humanities, in partnership with *L.A. as Subject*, a local and comparative research project of the Getty Research Institute for the History of Art and the Humanities. This event is free to the public with open seating as space allows.

For more information about *L.A. as Subject*,  
please contact:  
Local and Comparative Research  
The Getty Research Institute for the  
History of Art and the Humanities  
1200 Getty Center Drive  
Suite 1100  
Los Angeles, CA 90049-1688  
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