

Statement from Deborah Marrow, Interim President and CEO
The J. Paul Getty Trust
to the Global Forum of Art Foundations 2010

On behalf of the officers, program directors and staff of the J. Paul Getty Trust, I am pleased to extend my greetings to everyone attending the Global Forum of Art Foundations 2010. I regret that neither I nor my colleagues can be with you at this important meeting, but we will look forward to hearing about your discussions from our distinguished colleague LaoZhu who will soon be in Los Angeles as a scholar at the Getty Research Institute. We recognize that in an increasingly interconnected world, it is very important for arts and philanthropic leaders to come together to exchange ideas and information that will result in greater collaboration.

Permit me to provide some background on the J. Paul Getty Trust. The Trust is an international cultural and philanthropic institution that focuses on the visual arts in all their dimensions. We believe the arts have the capacity to inspire and strengthen humanistic values. We carry out our activities through four core organizations—the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Getty Research Institute, the Getty Conservation Institute, and the Getty Foundation—that are active in Los Angeles and all over the world.

The Getty programs are supported almost entirely by our large endowment which grew from funds generously originally left to us by Mr. J. Paul Getty following his death in 1976. Mr. Getty bequeathed his personal wealth to the Trust in order to further knowledge about the visual arts.

I'd like to give a brief description of our four core programs: The Getty Conservation Institute works internationally to advance conservation practice in the visual arts (including objects, collections, architecture, and sites) through scientific research, education and training, model field projects and the dissemination of the results of its own work and the work of others in the conservation field. The Conservation Institute has been privileged to work with partners in China for many years helping to develop, apply and promote national guidelines for conservation and the management of cultural heritage sites through the China Principles, as for example at the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang.

The Getty Research Institute, based at the Getty Center, is dedicated to furthering knowledge about the visual arts through scholarly and public programs about the history of art from ancient to recent times. Its Research Library with special collections of rare materials and digital resources is among the greatest international art historical collections, and it serves the arts community around the world.

The J. Paul Getty Museum exhibits its collections in two locations in Los Angeles. The beautiful Getty Center designed by Richard Meier on the west side of Los Angeles houses the Museum's collections of paintings, works on paper (such as manuscripts,

drawings and photographs), and sculpture and decorative art. The collection of Mediterranean antiquities is on display at our second location, the Getty Villa in Malibu. More than 1.6 million people visit the Getty Center and Villa each year.

The Getty Foundation fulfills the philanthropic mission of the Getty Trust by supporting individuals and institutions committed to advancing the understanding and preservation of the visual arts locally and throughout the world. Through strategic grants and programs, the Foundation strengthens art history as a global discipline, promotes the interdisciplinary practice of conservation, increases access to museum and archival collections, and develops current and future leaders in the visual arts.

Because this is a conference about foundations, I thought it might be useful to say a few words about philanthropy in the United States. There are nearly 100,000 American organizations of all sizes that make grants, and a number of them provide support for some form of the arts. The reason there are so many such organizations in the United States is that our tax laws encourage individuals, families, and corporations to donate money for charitable purposes. However, only a few organizations make grants for the arts anywhere outside the United States. Among them, the Getty Foundation is unique in making grants for the visual arts on a fully international basis, all over the world. And the Getty Trust is unique in combining a grant-making program with a Museum, Research Institute, and Conservation Institute.

While foundations have been established in the United States for many decades, in recent years, we have seen them begin to grow in other parts of the world as well. We share your excitement as these new organizations develop in China and look forward to working together with you in the coming years.

Congratulations and best wishes for a successful meeting.

Deborah Marrow
Interim President and Chief Executive Officer
The J. Paul Getty Trust