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## NEWS FROM GETTY PUBLICATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 1, 2018

*A gloriously illustrated examination of the origins and development of the nude as an artistic subject in Renaissance Europe*

LOS ANGELES, CA—During the Middle Ages, the centrality that the lifelike, nude human body had in ancient Greek and Roman art diminished considerably. By the end of the fourteenth century, however, the vibrantly naturalistic nude became a focus of image-making once again. Through their diversity and proliferation throughout Europe, these Renaissance nudes shaped the modern culture of the body and continue to mold the imagery of unclothed men and women today.

While the traditional art historical narrative traces a linear development of the nude from Italy to Northern Europe, ***The Renaissance Nude* (Getty Publications, \$65.00, hardcover)** argues that the story is far more complex. Looking at not only Italy, but also Germany, France, and the Netherlands, this exhibition catalogue reveals how the emergence of the nude in art was in fact a pan-European phenomenon shaped by different cultural impulses—including a renewed enthusiasm for Classicism, an increasingly scientific approach to the study of nature, and, in particular, a Christian culture that both fostered and shaped the nude's reception.

*The Renaissance Nude* explores the emergence and acceptance of the nude as an artistic subject through more than 250 artworks by well-known artists such as Albrecht Dürer and Donatello, as well as lesser-known artists that deserve greater recognition. Going beyond painting and sculpture, the volume examines prints, drawings, medals, and illuminated manuscripts—all of which increased the visibility of the nude and facilitated an unprecedented exchange of ideas across Europe.

Rich in scholarship, this ambitious publication engages with the complex connotations of the human body, from the religious to the magical and the poetic to the erotic. Discussed by sixteen expert scholars, the artworks center on male and female figures from infancy through old age to reveal the private and sometimes shocking preoccupations and beliefs of the time. Illuminating the Age of Humanism from an entirely new perspective, *The Renaissance Nude* examines in a profound way what it is to be human.

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This volume is published to accompany an exhibition on view at the J. Paul Getty Museum at the Getty Center October 30, 2018 to January 27, 2019 and at the Royal Academy of Arts London in the United Kingdom February 26 to June 2, 2019.

**Thomas Kren** is an independent scholar and adjunct professor of art history at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He founded the J. Paul Getty Museum's Department of Manuscripts in 1983.

**Jill Burke** is a senior lecturer in art history at the University of Edinburgh.

**Stephen J. Campbell** is the Henry and Elizabeth Wiesenfeld Professor and acting chair of the Department of the History of Art at Johns Hopkins University.

**Publication Information:**

*The Renaissance Nude*

**Edited by Thomas Kren with Jill Burke and Stephen J. Campbell**

**Assisted by Andrea Herrera and Thomas DePasquale**

J. Paul Getty Museum

432 pages, 9 1/2 x 12 inches

227 color illustrations

ISBN 978-1-60606-584-6, hardcover

US \$65.00, UK £48.00

**US Publication Date:** November 20, 2018

**UK Publication Date:** November 22, 2018

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