The annual Getty Research Journal provides researchers and staff of the Getty Research Institute the opportunity to highlight collections, objects, programs, and research undertaken during the course of their tenure. The first issue of the journal contains a collection of eighteen essays, each under ten pages with extensive notes at the end of each article. Essay topics focus on an object, archive, or research theme at the GRI or the Getty Villa, e.g., “Heterotopia in the Renaissance: Modern Hybrids as Antiques in Bramante, Cima da Conegliano, and the Hypnertomachia Poliphili” by Lorenzo Pericolo. Other essays such as “Voluptuous Unease: David Maisel’s Library of Dust” by Karen Lang and “Japan as Museum? Encapsulating Change and Loss in Late-Nineteenth-Century Japan” by Chelsea Foxwell, demonstrate the range of scholarship pursued at the Getty. In addition to research essays, recent acquisitions and research projects are highlighted near the end of the journal in shorter articles.

The foreword by Thomas W. Gaehrtgens, director of the GRI, sets the tone and vision of the inaugural edition. The journal editors aim to look at the description and analysis of works of art in a holistic manner by allowing for challenging voices and new interpretations on cultural heritage materials. Gaehrtgens declares that this new journal is intended to “inspire and encourage further research” on the Getty collections.

While the essays may at first seem short in length they are in fact rich in content for the specific research area, archive, or object held by the GRI. Notes are extensive after each short essay and provide the reader with a path to further exploration and research. As indicated by the sample essay titles this journal is a robust scholarly publication. The illustrations are full color, large, and beautifully reproduced on high quality paper. As this is a paperback publication it will need to be rebound or protected if intended for circulation as the binding will most likely not hold up to wear. The publication is an excellent compliment to an existing collection for users interested in research and materials at the Getty.

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