

The Parkville Frame Gallery Newsletter

2023 Newsletter #23-1 (Jan/Feb)

Subject: The Getty Center Podcasts



Host James Cuno

A **Podcast** is a digital audio file available on the internet that can be downloaded to a computer or mobile device. Podcast presentations are typically made available as a “series”. Subscribers can elect to receive new installments in the series on their device automatically.

The Getty Center in Los Angeles, California, is a campus of the Getty Museum, and other programs of the Getty Trust. The Getty offers their on-line *Art and Ideas Series* of 191 different podcasts.

A list of the 191 podcasts is available and easy to access at:

<https://soundcloud.com/the-getty/sets/art-ideas-podcast>

I have selected four very diverse podcasts from the Getty’s list of 191 choices. I think you will find them interesting. Because art is so imbedded in history, the first podcast that I have selected deals with art from one area of the ancient world—Mesopotamia.

Getty Podcast #162: *Art and Writing in Early Mesopotamian Cities*

<https://soundcloud.com/the-getty/art-and-writing-in-early-mesopotamian-cities?in=the-getty/sets/art-ideas-podcast> (Run time 41:38)

"From what we know, the earliest form of true writing was that invented in Mesopotamia in the late fourth millennium BCE. Closely followed by Egypt, not long after. It’s probably only a matter of a couple of hundred years, if that. But Mesopotamia seems to have it by a nose." Mesopotamia, the fertile land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers (Iraq today), was home to some of the world’s first cities. Beginning around 3,400 BCE, people came together in this region to build elaborately decorated buildings, form complex trade relationships, create great works of art and literature, and develop new scientific knowledge. Central to those many advancements was written language, which emerged earlier in Mesopotamia than anywhere else in the world. In this podcast, Timothy Potts, Maria Hummer-Tuttle, and Robert Tuttle, Director of the Getty Museum and curator of the Getty Villa exhibition *Mesopotamia: Civilization Begins*, discusses the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia (and its art).

I have selected the second podcast because of its significance in the history of art.

Getty Podcast #61: *Lives of the Artists: Giorgio Vasari on Bellini, Raphael, and Michelangelo*

<https://soundcloud.com/the-getty/lives-of-the-artists-vasari-bellini-raphael-michelangelo?in=the-getty/sets/art-ideas-podcast> (Run time: 45:42)



Davide Gasparotto

Giorgio Vasari's book *Lives of the Most Excellent Painters, Sculptors, and Architects from Cimabue to Our Times*, first published in 1550, is widely considered to be the ideological foundation of the discipline of art history. In this episode, senior curator of paintings Davide Gasparotto discusses the structure and history of Vasari's *Lives* and explores three biographies in particular—those of Giovanni Bellini, Raphael, and Michelangelo. These texts have recently been republished as individual books in Getty Publications' new *Lives of the Artists* series.

Getty Podcast #98: *The Lives of Titian*

<https://soundcloud.com/the-getty/lives-of-titian?in=the-getty/sets/art-ideas-podcast> (Run time: 48:58)

One of the most successful artists of the Italian Renaissance, Titian was the master of the sixteenth-century Venetian school. He was admired by his royal patrons and fellow artists alike. Several of his contemporaries, including the authors and art theorists Giorgio Vasari, Francesco Priscianese, Pietro Aretino, and Ludovico Dolce, wrote accounts of Titian's life and work. In this episode, Getty assistant curator of paintings Laura Llewellyn discusses what these "lives" teach us about Titian and the artistic debates and rivalries of his time. All of these biographies are gathered together in *Lives of Titian*, recently published by the Getty as part of our *Lives of the Artists* series.

The final podcast I have selected is a departure from the usual art history fare:

Getty Podcast #35: *David Saunders - Museum Conservation and Lighting*

<https://soundcloud.com/the-getty/david-saunders-on-museum-conservation-and-lighting?in=the-getty/sets/art-ideas-podcast> (Run time 44:29)

Lighting in museums has long been a contentious subject among museum conservators. A gallery with too much light often causes long-term damage to artwork on display, while a gallery with too little light creates a poor experience for visitors. The balance is fine and often subjective. In this episode, David Saunders, an expert in the area of conservation science, discusses the history of and advances in museum conservation and lighting. Currently a Getty Rothschild Fellow, Saunders is former principal specialist at the National Gallery and keeper of conservation, documentation, and research at the British Museum.

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