

# The Aztec Pantheon

and the Art of Empire

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INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS COME  
TOGETHER AT THE GETTY MUSEUM FOR  
A SYMPOSIUM ADDRESSING HISTORICAL  
ANALOGIES BETWEEN  
THE AZTECS AND ANCIENT ROME

*Altera Roma: Art and Empire from the Aztecs  
to New Spain*

At the J. Paul Getty Museum at the Getty Villa  
on Friday, April 30, and, Saturday, May 1

LOS ANGELES—Scholars from around the world will gather at the J. Paul Getty Museum at the Getty Villa on April 30 and May 1, 2010, to explore one of history's most momentous confrontations, an encounter between two cultures, European and Mesoamerican, and two empires, Spanish and Aztec. The two-day symposium – *Altera Roma: Art and Empire from the Aztecs to New Spain* – is being presented in conjunction with the exhibition *The Aztec Pantheon and the Art of Empire*, on view at the Getty Villa through July 5, 2010.

The exhibition and accompanying symposium examine the contexts in which classicism mediated a dialogue between Mesoamerica and Europe in the 1500s–1700s, when parallels were routinely drawn between the Old World past and the pre-Hispanic cultures of the New World. More specifically, the symposium will address cross-cultural analogies in the early modern period, as well as current comparative approaches to the archaeology of empire. Topics include the notion of parallel pantheons and classical paradigms for Aztec culture; the representation of Aztec life in post-conquest Mexico and Europe; monumental art as an imperial strategy and the Florentine Codex, an iconic chronicle of Aztec culture from the Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana in Florence, Italy.

– more –



The J. Paul Getty Trust  
Communications Department

1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 403  
Los Angeles, CA 90049-1681

Tel 310 440 7360 www.getty.edu  
Fax 310 440 7722

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Amongst the distinguished group of international speakers and contributors to the symposium are top experts in the field of classicism and Pre-Columbian art including Elizabeth Hill Boone, Tulane University, New Orleans; Thomas B.F. Cummins, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Guilhem Olivier Durand, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City; Jonathan Edmondson, York University, Toronto; Eulogio Guzmán, Tufts University, Boston; Cecelia F. Klein, University of California, Los Angeles; Andrew Laird, University of Warwick, England; Leonardo López Luján, Museo del Templo Mayor/INAH, Mexico City; David Lupper, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma; Anthony Pagden, University of California, Los Angeles; John Pohl, University of California, Los Angeles; Alessandra Russo, Columbia University, New York City; Walter Scheidel, Stanford University, California, and Emily Umberger, Arizona State University, Tempe.

The symposium is presented in association with the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at the University of California, Los Angeles, and is made possible by the generous support of Chase.

The symposium is open to the public for \$15 per day and \$10 per day for students. The fee includes parking, coffee/tea service, and reception on Friday evening. Advance registration for each day required. To register for the symposium, visit [www.getty.edu](http://www.getty.edu) or call (310) 440-7300.

In addition to the symposium, there will also be a public lecture on the *Florentine Codex* at the Getty Villa on Thursday, April 29. Diana Magaloni Kerpel, director of the Museo Nacional de Antropología in Mexico City, shares her research on the Codex. Created by Bernardino de Sahagún and a group of Nahuatl scholars between 1575 and 1577, the Codex is an encyclopedic study of Aztec history and culture. Accompanying its Spanish and native Nahuatl language texts are some 2,500 ink and watercolor drawings. The Codex's illustrations can be read as a third hidden text, reflecting both the pre-Hispanic tradition of painting-writing employed to record human history and the classical legacy of Renaissance Europe. The centerpiece of the exhibition, *The Aztec Pantheon and the Art of Empire*, the Codex returns to the Americas for the first time in over 400 years for the exhibition.

Celebrating the bicentennial of Mexican independence, *The Aztec Pantheon and the Art of Empire, on view through July 5, 2010*, presents extraordinary masterworks of Aztec sculpture, largely from the collections of the Museo Nacional de Antropología and the Museo del Templo Mayor in Mexico City, represents the J. Paul Getty Museum's first display of

antiquities from outside the ancient Mediterranean as well as the first exhibition on the Aztec empire to be organized in Los Angeles.

For symposium schedule and registration info, please visit,  
<http://www.getty.edu/museum/symposia/alteraroma.html>

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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Beth Brett  
Getty Communications  
310-440-6473  
[bbrett@getty.edu](mailto:bbrett@getty.edu)

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**Additional information is available at [www.getty.edu](http://www.getty.edu).**

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*Aztec Deities*

Bernardino de Sahagún

Spanish, 1499–1590

*Historia general de las cosas de Nueva España* (General History of the Things of New Spain), also called the Florentine Codex vol. 1, 1575–1577

Colonial Mexican

Watercolor, paper, contemporary vellum Spanish binding

Open (approx.): H: 32 x W: 43 cm (12 5/8 x 16 15/16 in.)

Object (above deck, approx.): H: 16 cm (6 5/16 in.)

Closed: H: 32 x W: 22 x D: 5 cm (12 5/8 x 8 11/16 x 1 5/16 in.)

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Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana, Florence, Italy, FI 100 Med.Palat. 218

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