

DUMBARTON OAKS, GARDEN AND LANDSCAPE STUDIES

PUBLIC LECTURE & FILM SCREENING

JOHN WALSH
DIRECTOR EMERITUS OF THE J. PAUL GETTY MUSEUM

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2010 AT 5:30 PM



IMAGES COURTESY OF JOHN WALSH

MUSEUM SCULPTURE GARDENS: A BRIEF ILLUSTRATED HISTORY. Why do people respond so well to works of art in outdoor settings? John Walsh, Director Emeritus of the J. Paul Getty Museum, shows why in a lecture illustrated with film and slides. Walsh discusses the phenomenon of sculpture gardens and parks that has evolved over the past 50 years starting before World War II at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. He traces the spread of the idea, from outdoor shows in public parks in postwar London and Antwerp to the expansive landscapes at the Kröller-Müller Museum in Holland, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Denmark, the Storm King Art Center in New York and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in the United Kingdom. More recently, sculpture gardens have been built on the Mall in Washington, D.C. by the Hirshhorn Museum and the National Gallery of Art, and also in Dallas, Houston, Minneapolis, Kansas City and Seattle.

The film, **ART WITHOUT WALLS: THE MAKING OF THE OLYMPIC SCULPTURE PARK** (USA, 2007, 29 min.) documents the creation of Seattle's new Olympic Sculpture Park, which transformed a polluted fuel storage site in the heart of Seattle into a public green space that combines important contemporary sculpture with environmental art and natural beauty. Exhibiting works by such giants as Alexander Calder, Richard Serra, and Claes Oldenburg as well as sculpture by emerging artists, and open free of charge, the park encourages people to experience art as part of daily life. *Directed by Rustin Thompson. Produced by Ann Hedreen.* This screening is in conjunction with the DC Environmental Film Festival.

JOHN WALSH is Director Emeritus of the J. Paul Getty Museum, where he served as Director from 1983 to 2000. An art historian who specializes in Dutch 17th-century paintings, Walsh was educated at Yale, Columbia and the University of Leyden, where he was a Fulbright Fellow. He did curatorial work at the Frick Collection; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where he was Curator in the Department of European Paintings; and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, where he was Curator of Paintings. He is the author of many articles in his field of specialization and two recent books, *Jan Steen, The Drawing Lesson* and *The J. Paul Getty Museum and Its Collections: A Museum for the New Century*. He has taught at Columbia and Harvard and currently teaches at Yale.

Reservations are required. Please RSVP by Monday, March 22
to: Landscape@doaks.org 202-339-6460.

*The lecture will be held in the **Music Room** at Dumbarton Oaks's Main House located at 1703 32nd Street, NW. The lecture is open to the public without charge. A light reception to follow; Parking not provided.*