

Cast polyester resin 12 x 8 ft Image courtesy De Wain Valentine / Artwork© De Wain Valentine

Complementing the Getty Museum's exhibition Pacific Standard Time: Crosscurrents in L.A. Paintings and Sculpture 1950-1970, this exhibition of De Wain Valentine's Gray Column (1975-1976), organized by the Getty Conservation Institute, will serve as the focal point of discussions of modern materials used in contemporary sculpture, as well as the practical and ethical issues surrounding conservation of these works. Gray Column (owned by Valentine and never before displayed) is a single slab of solid polyester almost 12 feet high and 8 feet across. This monumental piece exemplifies technical advances made by Valentine, who worked with a polymer chemist to develop a formula that for the first time permitted large-scale, single castings in this material.