

Basic Detail Report

Gail Harris Getty

Date

1969-1979

Medium

gelatin silver print

Description

Gail Harris, a former water polo champion. She was married to John Paul Getty, Jr. They divorced in 1964, having had four children including John Paul Getty III and Mark Getty. In 1973, their eldest son, John Paul Getty III, was kidnapped in Rome by Calabrian mobsters and held in the Calabrian Mountains, chained to a stake in a cave. Getty did not have enough money to pay the \$17 million ransom demand, and his father refused to help, saying "I have 14 other grandchildren, and if I pay one penny now, then I will have 14 kidnapped grandchildren." However, when one of his son's ears was delivered by mail to a newspaper in Rome (delivery had been delayed by three weeks because of a postal strike), his father finally agreed to help out with the ransom payment by making the ransom payment a loan to his son.

Dimensions

Overall: 20.3 x 30.3 cm (8 x 12 in.)