

# DEATH MATCH



#DeathMatchGV

## A Quest for the Deathiest Objects at the Getty Villa

**Which is the deathiest of them all?** Browse staff picks in the Getty Villa collection and add your favorite objects and spaces to the list by posting to Instagram or Twitter with the hashtag #DeathMatchGV. Or, nominate your picks via secret meeting at the coat check between 1:30 and 3:00 p.m. Death Salon experts will crown the deathiest object at the end of today's talks.

## FIND AND SHARE...

An object that would suit you for your **tombstone**.

Something you'd like wrapped inside your **future mummy**.

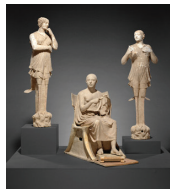
An object useful for cursing your **worst enemy**.

The most **gasp-worthy** deathly object.

The ideal setting for your future **funeral banquet**.

## GETTY STAFF PICKS

### Musical Death



#### *Statues of Two Sirens*

The song of the Sirens lured sailors in Homer's *Odyssey* to crash and die on hidden rocks. These alluring sirens may have once decorated a tomb.

**That's interesting:** Sirens are usually depicted as part woman, part bird.

**Find it:** Gallery 109 (downstairs)

### Painful Death



#### *Klyx with the Suicide of Ajax*

On this wine-drinking cup, Greek warrior Ajax has fallen on his own sword after losing out on a prize he deserved.

**That's interesting:** For the ancient Greek hero, suicide was an acceptable response to dishonor.

**Find it:** Gallery 110 (downstairs)

### Loving Death



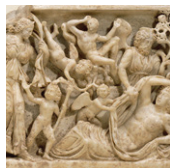
#### *Gravestone of Sime*

This memorial for an ancient Greek mother shows her surrounded by her husband and adult children.

**That's interesting:** The handshake is thought to represent family unity after death.

**Find it:** Gallery 201B (upstairs corridor)

### Sexy Death



#### *Sarcophagus with the Moon Coming to Her Lover*

The moon goddess, Selene, keeps her youthful lover Endymion asleep forever so he won't age and die. His peaceful sleep is like the eternal slumber of death, only sexier.

**That's interesting:** To ensure Endymion does not wake, the god of sleep pours poppy juice on him.

**Find it:** Gallery 201B (upstairs corridor)

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### Furry Death



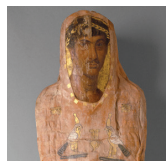
#### *Gravestone of Helena*

Is this a girl's headstone or a dog's? Art historians debate.

**That's interesting:** Like us, the Romans owned and pampered lapdogs, and sometimes included them in funerary art.

**Find it:** Gallery 201B (upstairs corridor)

### Double Death



#### *Mummy of Herakleides*

This young Roman Egyptian, Herakleides, shares his wrapper with another, smaller mummy.

**That's interesting:** Herakleides received a CT scan at UCLA in 2005.

**Find it:** Gallery 206 (upstairs)

### Tender Death



#### *Oil Jar with Family Members Visiting a Grave*

A *lekythos* is a small oil container used in funerary rituals. On the vase, a young man and woman decorate a gravestone with ribbons, oil, and a flower.

**That's interesting:** This woman's short hair could be a mourning gesture—or signify her status as a slave.

**Find it:** Gallery 207 (upstairs)

### Elegant Death



#### *Statuette of a Dead Youth*

This young man may represent one of the Niobids, children slain by the gods as punishment for their mortal mother's boastful pride.

**That's interesting:** Since ancient times, artists have found beauty in the suffering and release of death.

**Find it:** Gallery 209 (upstairs)

### Tiny Death



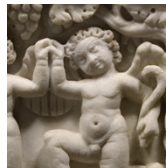
#### *Miniature Skeleton*

Behold the *larva convivalis*, a death-themed discussion starter used at Roman dinner parties.

**That's interesting:** He used to be posable, and could shake and dance.

**Find it:** Gallery 212 (upstairs)

### Fruity Death



#### *Sarcophagus with Cupids Treading Grapes*

Chubby, naked infants make wine on this coffin. The grapevine, reborn annually, symbolizes transcending death.

**That's interesting:** The word *sarcophagus* comes from the ancient Greek for "flesh eater."

**Find it:** Gallery 213 (upstairs)

More info on the objects above, including links to audio and video, at: [bit.ly/DeathMatchGV](http://bit.ly/DeathMatchGV)

