



FRIENDS OF ETHNIC ART

P.O. Box 192430 ~ San Francisco, California 94119-2430

Hotline: 415/487-8706

Website: www.friendsofethnicart.org

FEA NEWSLETTER

October 2007

IN THIS ISSUE



Mami Wata (1975) by Joseph Chukwu

FEA Sponsored EVENTS

- **Oct. 26:** Henry Drewal on *Mami Wata* at SFMOAD
- **Oct. 28:** Evelyn Billo on *Rock Art* at Marin Museum of the American Indian
- **Nov. 11:** Karl Taube on *Mayan flower symbols* at the De Young
- **Dec. 1:** Annual FEA holiday party at Xanadu Gallery

Envisioning a Water Divinity: Arts for Mami Wata in Africa and the African Atlantic World

An illustrated lecture by

Henry John Drewal, Ph. D

Friday, October 26, 2007, 7 pm

Museum of the African Diaspora

685 Mission Street (at third)

San Francisco, CA, 94105

phone: 415.358.7200

For directions see: www.moadsf.org

Various peoples in Africa and the African Atlantic world envision a vast pantheon of water divinities and celebrate them with a rich variety of arts. One of the most popular water spirits is Mami Wata. This talk will trace her visual and cultural histories among specific persons and communities in Africa, and follow her images and identities as they cross Atlantic waters to the Americas.

Henry J. Drewal is an art historian specializing in the arts of the Yoruba-speaking peoples of West Africa and the African Diaspora. His six years of research and study in Africa include apprenticeships with Yoruba sculptors. He is the author of *Beads, Body, and Soul: Art and Light in the Yoruba Universe* (1998); *Yoruba: Nine Centuries of African Art and Thought* (1989); *Gelede: Art and Female Power Among the Yoruba* (1983, 2nd Edition, 1990); exhibition catalogues: *Introspectives: Contemporary Art By Americans and Brazilians of African Descent* (1989); *Shapes of the Mind* (1988); *African Artistry: Technique and Aesthetics in Yoruba Sculpture* (1980); and numerous articles in African Arts and other journals. He is currently working on an exhibition/book project about the visual history and culture of the African water spirit, Mami Wata, and books on Ijebu-Yoruba and Afro-Brazilian art history.



1955 chromolithograph from India of a 19th century snake charmer.

This lecture is a sneak preview of the art and information Dr. Drewal will present in the important upcoming exhibition at UCLA's Fowler Museum: *Mami Wata: Arts for Water Spirits in Africa and Its Diasporas*, April 6, 2008 to July 28, 2008.

FEA EVENTS (cont'd.)

Colorado Plateau Rock Art's Place in the World

An illustrated lecture by
Evelyn Billo

Sunday, October 28, 12:00 noon

followed by a tour of the museum's exhibition:
Sacred Rock Art of California: A Spectacular Diversity

Marin Museum of the American Indian

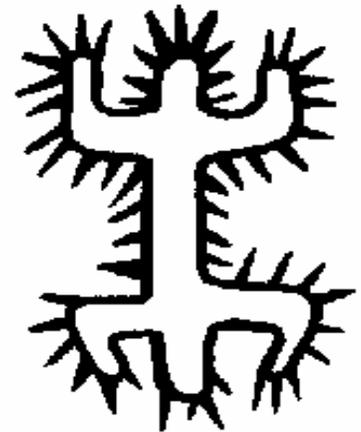
2200 Novato Blvd @ Miwok Park

Novato CA 94948

Phone: 415-897-4064

FEA members and guests only RSVP

To reserve seats, call or email FEA program chair Gregory Ghent 510-232-0818;
or email to email@gregoryghent.com



Rock art of the Colorado Plateau is extensive and impressive. Some images are unique to the region and depict deities or stories important to the cultures that lived on the Plateau throughout the millennia. We are fortunate that indigenous people living on the Plateau today, such as the Navajo, Hopi and Pai have shared stories about some of the images.

Many similarities exist among rock art sites around the world. Ms. Billo will be showing that some representational elements such as bears, lions, horses, owls, handprints, human forms, and abstract imagery such as geometric patterns -- exist throughout space and time. Examples from Paleolithic sites of Western Europe, and younger sites from Africa, Australia, India, China, Egypt, Rapa Nui, and more will be contrasted with Southwestern USA petroglyph and pictograph sites.

Evelyn Billo of Flagstaff, Arizona, is founder of Rupestrian CyberServices and Vice President of ARARA (the American Rock Art Research Association). Originally from Texas, she always knew she wanted to travel. Her high school graduation gift was a trip to the Grand Canyon and the greater Colorado Plateau. She fell in love and eventually "retired" there after 20 years with the U. S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park, California.

Although she visited a few petroglyph sites in the 1960s around Las Cruces, while at New Mexico State University, her current passion for rock art began in 1980. She led a USGS project in Chaco Canyon studying the soil recovery of Anasazi roads with her colleague (and now husband), Robert Mark. The Superintendent asked them to climb Fajada Butte to report on the geologic setting of the famous sun dagger spiral petroglyph site. This led to a paper in Science magazine and much travel -- photographing rock art sites in 23 countries over the past 25 years.

In addition to being an Arizona Archaeological Society certified rock art recorder and teacher, she is most proud of efforts, along with Bob, to preserve and protect rock art sites that led to the ARARA Conservation and Preservation Award in 1999 and the Oliver Award for excellence in Photography in 2002. They both serve as Adjunct Professors at Northern Arizona University, and as Research Associates in Anthropology with the Museum of Northern Arizona (MNA).

When MNA contacted Bob and Evelyn in February of 2005 saying they needed an exhibit on rock art ready by June, they stepped to the plate and were the principle volunteer guest curators of "Stories on Stone" the Rock Art of the Colorado Plateau. Containing over 200 of their photographs, the exhibit ran for a year, and included a lecture series. Her FEA lecture will be an expanded version of one presented as part of that series.

Welcome new members:

Jacquelyn G. Vallier
Karl & Ginger Bareis

The FEA Newsletter

is published several times a year. If you have events you would like to have included, please send information to:

Friends of Ethnic Art

PO Box 192430

San Francisco CA 94119-2430

We will attempt to include the information as space allows.

Admission to FEA Events:

Unless otherwise noted, lectures and museum admission are free of charge. Bring a friend!

Please Note:

All events listed in the FEA newsletter are subject to schedule changes. Please call ahead to confirm date, time, and price of admission at each event's venue.

Address Change?

Send a postcard to us at Friends of Ethnic Art or contact our hotline or website.



FEA EVENTS (cont'd.)

The 2007 Lewis K. Land Memorial Lecture

Windows to Another World: Murals and Flower Symbolism in Meso- america and the American Southwest

An illustrated lecture by
Karl A. Taube

Saturday, November 10, 10:00 AM

**Koret Auditorium, de Young Museum, Golden Gate
Park, San Francisco
(Free admission to the lecture)**



© Justin Kerr

Mural painting constitutes one of the most developed artistic traditions in ancient Mesoamerica and the American Southwest. Unlike carved shell and bone or painted vessels, mural paintings can cover vast surfaces, allowing for remarkably detailed and elaborate scenes. In many respects, such murals are like windows into an otherwise distant and ancient world of myth and history. In many instances, these all too rare scenes have transformed our perceptions of the Maya and other cultures of ancient Mesoamerica, including the Olmeca-Xicalanca of Cacaxtla and the ancient inhabitants of Teotihuacan. In this presentation professor Taube will call our attention to the murals recently found at San Bartolo, Guatemala, a discovery that promises to affect our understanding of not only the ancient Maya, but of Mesoamerica as a whole. In addition, certain themes found in mural traditions of Mesoamerica, including floral symbolism and plumed serpent "roads" can also be found in ancient murals of the American Southwest.

Karl Taube is Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, Riverside. Much of his recent research and publications center upon the writing and religious systems of ancient Mesoamerica. Selected publications: *Olmec Art at Dumbarton Oaks* (2004), "Lightning Celts and Corn Fetishes: The Formative Olmec and the Development of Maize Symbolism in Mesoamerica and the American Southwest" (in *Olmec Art and Archaeology*, editors J. Clark and M. Pye, 2000), *The Writing System of Ancient Teotihuacan* (Center for Ancient American Studies, 2000), "The Turquoise Hearth: Fire, Self Sacrifice, and the Central Mexican Cult of War" (in *Mesoamerica's Classic Heritage*, editors D. Carrasco, L. Jones, S. Sessions 2000), "The Olmec Maize God: The Face of Corn in Formative Mesoamerica" (RES, 1996).



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Annual Friends of Ethnic Art Holiday Party

Saturday, December 1, 6 to 8 pm

Xanadu Gallery

140 Maiden Lane
San Francisco 94108
California, USA
Tel: (415) 392-9999

Welcome in the Holiday Season with fellow FEA members at the fabulous Xanadu Gallery. Enjoy food and drinks, plus special live music.

In the spirit of the season of giving, please bring *large* sealed jars or tubes of unexpired standard medicines for adults or children (think first-aid, such as aspirin, ibuprofen, hydrocortisone, bandages, etc. even vitamins) as a donation to Village Relief Foundation. Your donation will be shipped by Village Relief Foundation to a trusted professional health practitioner in a remote region of a developing country, where it will be carefully distributed to indigenous people in need.

For more information see www.villagerelief.org



PRIMAL ARTS AT THE PRESIDIO

Friday October 12 -- Sunday October 14, 2007

Herbst International Exhibition Hall
385 Moraga Avenue, The Presidio, San Francisco.

Daily show hours: Saturday Oct 13, 11 am to 7 pm
Sunday Oct 14, 11 am to 5 pm
Admission: \$10. Ample Free Parking.

Gala Preview Opening to Benefit the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco:
Friday, October 12, 6 to 9.30 pm
\$50 advance/\$60 door



This 4th annual tribal art show and sale presented by San Francisco Tribal will showcase a wide range of museum-quality art works from ancient and traditional cultures around the world, including sculpture, masks, textiles, ceramics, weapons, shields, jewelry and aboriginal paintings. The exhibitors are all members of San Francisco Tribal, a distinguished association of Bay Area tribal art dealers in African, Oceanic, Asian, Pre-Columbian, North American Indian and Australian Aboriginal Art.

For more Information and directions: www.sftribal.com

OPEN HOUSE/SALE ETHNOGRAPHIC ARTS PUBLICATIONS

On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, November 16, 17, and 18, and on the Thanksgiving weekend, November 23, 24, and 25, Ethnographic Arts Publications will hold its annual open house at its showroom in the Industrial Center Building, 480 Gate Five Road, suite 128, Sausalito. Hours: Friday & Saturday, 11-5 p.m.; Sunday, 12-5

The entire inventory of 12,000 tribal art books, catalogues, and journals: African, Oceanic, Asian, Eskimo/Arctic, American Indian, pre-Columbian and post-Conquest Latin American--are available for browsing, and will include several hundred titles marked down 30%-60%, only for this open house.

For directions or to receive an phone 415-383-2998.



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WE NEED YOUR HELP! Two important job openings. Membership in FEA not required.

1. The Friends of Ethnic Art must engage someone to design, print, and mail our quarterly newsletters and postcards and maintain our website. Text and images will be supplied. Depending on experience, this might take **twelve to twenty-four hours every three months.**

2. We need someone to help **two to four hours a month** with our bank and treasury. These are simple tasks such as check writing, recording income and expenses in Quicken and producing a monthly report.

For more information please contact FEA board president Dave DeRoche
@ 510-640-0200

MORE EVENTS OF INTEREST

Ancient Roots/Urban Journeys: Expressions for Dias de los Muertos

Oakland Museum

October 10 - December 2, 2007
(For more information: 510.238-2200
or www.museumca.org)



Anjee Helstrup-Alvarez, associate director/curator of Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana (MACLA) is guest curator of the museum's 14th annual Days of the Dead exhibition. The artworks

created by artists, schools, and community groups, range from traditional Oaxacan-style altars to urban forms of expression.

DREAMING IN COLOR: Aboriginal Art from Balgo.

Through October 14, 2007

Hearst Art Gallery, St. Mary's College
1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga, CA 94575

Gallery hours: Wed-Sunday, 11 AM - 4:30 PM

For more info: 925-631-4379

A display of 45 colorful paintings from the Aboriginal community of Balgo, Western Australia.

TRADITIONAL TEXTILES OF INDONESIA: TODAY AND THE FUTURE

A Conference in Bali
November 19-22, 2007

The main goal of this conference, the fifth in a series arranged by the National Museum of Indonesia, is to promote the continuation of traditional textile arts and crafts of today and bring a new perspective for the future in Indonesia. An additional goal is to get more information about traditional textile production in Indonesia and other countries in Southeast Asia. Special focus will be given to:

- Innovative ways of creating appreciation of the traditional textiles.
- Acculturation between the new and the old aspects of traditional textiles.
- Preservation of traditional textiles today and in the future.

Accommodation will be available at Inna Sindu Beach Hotel, Sanur-Bali where the conference is to be held.

For more information:

Sandra Sardjono

Tel: 323 857-6135 Fax: 323 857-6218

ssardjono@lacma.org



Special Programs Celebrating Oceanic Art At the de Young Museum

All events at the Koret Auditorium unless otherwise noted.
Admission \$3 for FAMSF members; \$4 for non-members
For more information call: 415/750-2621

Rivers, Spirits and Heroes: Arts of the Lower Niger Region

Thursday, October 11, 2007, 10 AM - Noon

Lecturer: **Herbert Cole, Ph D.**

Professor Emeritus, Department of Art and Architecture,
UC - Berkeley,

Dr. Cole will discuss arts of the lower Niger.

Art and Culture of the Bilum

Saturday, November 10, 2007, 2 - 5 PM

by **Cathy Kata, 2007 Jolika Fellow**

The Jolika Fellows program enables fine art and performing artists, museum professionals, and fine art and anthropology students from the island of New Guinea to visit the de Young Museum. Cathy Kata, a 2007 Jolika fellow, brings the art of bilum-making to San Francisco.

A woven string bag, the bilum is one of the most universally worn and used objects in New Guinea. Ms. Kata will discuss the artistic and cultural impact of the bilum on Papua New Guinea. A reception in honor of the artist will be held immediately following the lecture in the Piazzoni Mural Room.

Learn the art and process of bilum-making: Ms. Kata will lead a bilum-making workshop in the Wells Fargo Classroom, 8th floor tower, on Saturday, November 3, 2007, 10 AM - 4 PM, \$50 per person includes supplies.



Ancestral Memory: Masterworks of Indonesian Art in the de Young Museum Collection

Thursday, November 15, 2007, 10 AM - Noon
by **Steven G. Alpert**

A noted author, collector, lecturer, and dealer, Steven G. Alpert will give a lecture on the de Young's Indonesian art collection. Mr. Alpert is a graduate of Wesleyan University and is considered one of the world's foremost authorities on Indonesian tribal art. Beginning his travels in 1970, Mr. Alpert visited some of the most remote areas of the Indonesian archipelago when many of its inhabitants belonged to the last generation to come of age before the onset of colonial rule. Many of the objects he collected during this time comprise the Dallas Museum of Art's Indonesian collection. Mr. Alpert's lecture will visually reunite pieces from the de Young with their Dallas counterparts in a discussion of the material's universal themes and regional specificity.



Gold, Bone, Feathers, and Clay: Moche Warriors, Trophy Heads, Nazca Sorcerers, Tiwanaku Mantles, and Wari Mosaics
January 10, 2008, 10 AM - Noon
Lecturer: **Patrick Hunt, Ph.D.**
Department of Art, Stanford University

SAVE THE DATE FOR UPCOMING FEA SPONSORED LECTURES

Sunday February 10, 2008, 11am—4pm

During the Fort Mason Tribal Arts Show and Sale at
The Firehouse, Fort Mason

Two lectures.

Speaker 1: **Wolfgang Schlink**

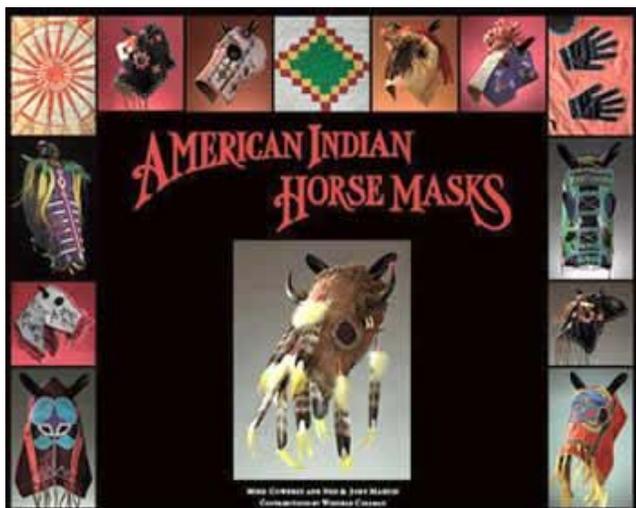
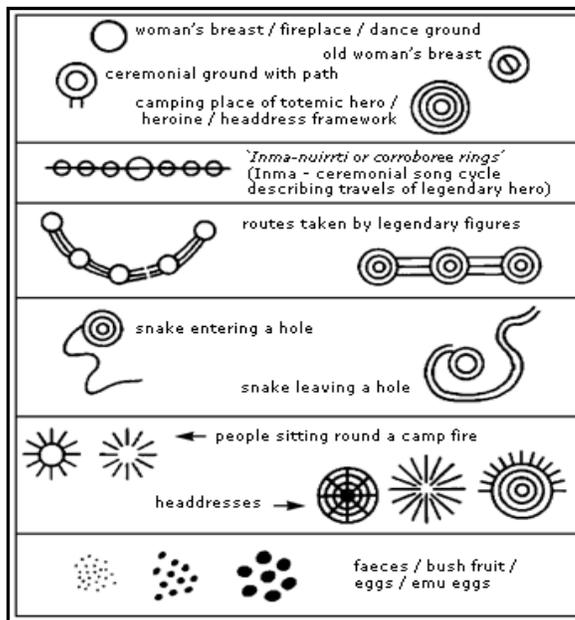
Aboriginal Australian Art :

Crossroads of Tradition and Modernity

The richly slide-illustrated lecture opens a window into the cultural history, the artistic diversity, current challenges, and the collecting of Aboriginal Australian art, the oldest continuous art movement on our planet.

Speaker 2: to be announced.

From Layton, Robert, 1992, *Australian Rock Art: A New Synthesis*, Cambridge University Press



Sunday February 25, 2008, 11:00

During the Kim Martindale Antique Indian and Tribal art show, at the entrance to the Marin Center.

Dressed to Kill:: Horse Masking of the Plains and Plateau Indians

Speaker: Winfield Coleman

Mr. Coleman will cover masking in the broad sense: focused especially on the wonderful masks drawn over the heads of horses, but also touching on various other accouterments and, especially, horse paints, as well as the historical origins of these various components.

Winfield Coleman is an artist and a scholar who has published numerous articles on American Indian culture, and illustrated museum catalogs and ethnographic books.

He is a contributor to the award winning book, *American*

Indian Horse Masks (Hawk Hill Press, 2006). From 2002 to 2005 he was Curatorial Assistant at the Cantor Art Center, Stanford University. He also is a board member of the Friends of Ethnic Art.

***American Indian Horse Masks* is the 2007 winner of the Witterborn Book Award for the best art/historical book of the year.**

Other lectures of interest:

Thursday, November 8th, 7pm at Dominican University, Creekside Room, 50 Acacia Ave, San Rafael, CA
Suggested Donation: \$5 - \$10

Chief Marin, a lecture by Betty Goerke. Presented by the Marin Museum of the American Indian and Dominican University of California

Betty Goerke has been teaching anthropology and archaeology at College of Marin for over thirty years. Her recent book, *Chief Marin: Leader, Rebel, and Legend* (2007, Heyday Books) is the stunning result of years of meticulous research through mission records, ethnographies, and diaries. Betty's accurate portrayal of the life of Chief Marin, fugitive Native American leader and companion of General Vallejo, is well respected by Native tribal members and a must-read.

THE FRIENDS OF ETHNIC ART PARTY TO A WORLD BEAT

The theme was World Culture as over 100 FEA members and guests enjoyed themselves at the annual FEA end-of-summer party, public meeting, and fundraiser at the Marin Art and Garden Center on September 7th. Leo King deftly performed romantic Spanish, Latin, and Classical melodies on his guitar. **Scrumptious dishes reflecting various cuisines and cultures** was cooked and served by CaterMarin to raves from the partygoers (www.catermarin.com; 415/892-2777). Many thanks to Terry Eberle and her highly professional catering crew. In keeping with the multi-cultural theme, an around-the-world wine tour was masterfully selected by Zena Kruzick.



A spacious and attractive ethnographic art exhibition was mounted in the Center's gallery for three hours by artists Jaap Bongers and Foad Satterfield. FEA members brought significant pieces from their collections for the afternoon that reflected the curator's themes of *Color and Magic*. Using black cloths and pedestals, the curators installed the art in a dramatic display appreciated by all.

Over \$15,000 was raised by the auction of a wide variety of ethnographic art, textiles, books, and artifacts, including the famous FEA Rock (*Palaoticus Fe'arundum*). Enrique and Judy Klein relinquished their title as Keeper of the Rock for 2007 as the highest bid went to Elizabeth Blois, who will surely treasure the unique and ancient rock until next year when it passes on to a new Keeper. Alongside the other distinguished past Keepers of the Rock, Enrique and Judy's names are permanently engraved on a brass nameplate mounted to the base of the rock, and they too received the prized wood and brass commemorative keepsake plaque with a mounted photograph of the rock with their names engraved below.



Thank You to the following volunteers who were so helpful at the party: Jeannie Sack, Marnay O'Neal, Pam Barry, Marsden & Elizabeth Blois, Judy & Enrique Klein, Jim Weber, Joan McCarthy, Jerry Jacob, Jim Haas, Jaret Elbert, Jo Floyd, Russell Herrman, Gina Bray, Michel Quenon, Foad Satterfield, Gregory Ghent, Jaap Bongers, Zena Kruzick, Tamara Hill, Daniel Mejia, Diana MacDonald, Paul Maher. And thanks to those who helped but could not attend: Dave DeRoche, Karen Silverberg, Scott McCue, Joshua Dimondstein.

Thank You to the generous donors to the fundraising auction: The John & Monica Haley Charitable Foundation, Bray/Herrman Fine Arts, Gene Bondreau, Mike Glad, Paul Maher & Anne Gregory, Thomas Murray, Enrique Klein, Marc Franklin, Constance Kamens Fine Art, Robert Dowling, Zena Kruzick, Diana Macdonald, Joseph Walter, Susan Fassberg, Karina Nilsen, Bernard Wittenberg, Jim & Claudia Haas, Michael Auliso, Pam Barry,

Olene Sparks, Foad & Kimberly Satterfield, Erik Farrow, Ellen Werner, Daniel Mejia, Gregory Ghent, Jeannie Sack, and Anonymous contributors.

WANT TO BE REMINDED BY EMAIL OF FEA EVENTS?

It's easy: Just give us your email address



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