

Fowler

MUSEUM AT UCLA

Striking Iron: An Interdisciplinary Symposium

Friday, November 9, 7 PM

Saturday, November 10, 9:30 AM—6:00 PM

Fowler Museum at UCLA, Lenart Auditorium

RSVP at ironsymposium.eventbrite.com



Artists Sokari Douglas Camp and Alison Saar

This two-part symposium explores iron in the context of its history, spiritual potencies, cultural roles and meanings, and artistic possibilities in Africa and its Diasporas. On Friday night, acclaimed visual artists **Sokari Douglas Camp** and **Alison Saar** talk about the centrality of metal to their artistic practices, followed by a conversation moderated by Fowler Museum **Director Marla C. Berns**. Saturday's sessions feature an interdisciplinary range of distinguished speakers, including astronomer and director of the Griffith Observatory **Ed Krupp**, archaeologist **Shadreck Chirikure**, artist **Tom Joyce**, historians **Candice Goucher** and **Colleen Kriger**, art historian **Rowland Abiodun**, and anthropologist **Ade Ofunniyin**.

Friday November 9, 12 PM: Join us for a Gallery Talk on bronze *ofò* with **Philip M. Peek**, guest co-curator of *Summoning the Ancestors: Southern Nigerian Bronzes*.

For a complete schedule and to register, click on ironsymposium.eventbrite.com

Friday, November 9, 7:00 PM

Keynote Presentation:

Artist Talks by Sokari Douglas Camp and Alison Saar

Followed by a conversation moderated by Marla C. Berns

Saturday, November 10, 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM

- 9:30 am Coffee reception in the UCLA Art Council Amphitheatre
- 10:00 am Welcome/Opening Remarks
Marla C. Berns, Shirley and Ralph Shapiro Director, Fowler Museum
- 10:15 am-12:00 pm Session 1: Africa's Iron Origins
Moderated by William Dewey, Associate Professor of Art History, Director of the African Studies Program, Penn State
- "Heavy Metal: Hammering Iron out of the Sky"
Ed Krupp, Director, Griffith Park Observatory, Los Angeles
- "Archaeological Evidence for Iron's Independent Invention in Africa: Empirically Proven or Red Herring?"
Shadreck Chirikure, Professor, Archaeology, University of Cape Town
- "The Scabbard Only Embellishes, the Sword Never Feels Cold"
Rowland Abiodun, John C. Newton Professor of Art, the History of Art, and Black Studies, Amherst College
- 12:00-1:45 pm Lunch Break, Film Screening, and Exhibition Viewing
- BLACKsmiths of Morocco*, a 15 min. film by Henry John Drewal, will be screening on a loop in the auditorium
- Fowler exhibitions will be open for viewing, including:
- Striking Iron: The Art of African Blacksmiths*
World on the Horizon: Swahili Arts Across the Indian Ocean
Summoning the Ancestors: Southern Nigerian Bronzes
- 2:00-3:00 pm Session 2: Iron and the African Diaspora
Moderated by Henry John Drewal, Evjue-Bascom Professor of Art History, Departments of Art History and Afro-American Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- "Forging the History of Iron in the Atlantic World"
Candice Goucher, Professor, History, Washington State University, Vancouver
- "Memory and Public Culture: The Making of an African American Icon in Charleston, South Carolina"
Ade Ofunniyin, Adjunct Professor, Anthropology, African American Studies and Women's and Gender Studies, College of Charleston
- 3:00-3:15 pm Break
- 3:15- 5:00 pm Session 3: Forging Identities
Moderated by Andrew Apter, Professor of History and Director of the African Studies Center, UCLA
- "Forging History and Memory in Central Africa"
Colleen Kriger, Professor, History, University of North Carolina, Greensboro
- Artist Talk by Tom Joyce: *Lingua-Ferrum*
- 5:00-6:00 pm Reception in the UCLA Art Council Amphitheatre