

the MoA Quarterly

A NEWSLETTER OF THE
MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY, MIZZOU

NEW THIS QUARTER:

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Mask by Miguel Ignacio Jr.
1993
Guatemala

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Autumn falls softly upon us with wonderful weather and a winning Tigers football team. Students are on campus enjoying the museum spaces, and we are back in the swing of teaching them museum skills.

Our new exhibit *Construction of a Persona: Masks as Self Portraits* is now open. We look forward to sharing the art of Peggy Hancock Kinder at “Arts After Hours” event, September 19th, 4-7 pm. Peggy is an applique and beading artist from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, and this event showcases what the College of Arts & Science offers the community in arts, music, and design at nine locations on campus.

September is Missouri Archaeology Month. Dr. Wesley Stoner from the MU Department of Anthropology will give a lecture titled:

“Where the Mountains Meet the Bluegrass,” sharing with us new information from Fort Ancient. In October, Niko Tapia will share his research on the use of poisons.

You don’t want to miss Norman Akers’ talk on November 14th. He’s a professor of art and contemporary artist of the Osage Nation, and he’s part of our current exhibit series on Contemporary Art of the Osage. Norman’s painting, *Looking Over a New Land*, was recently added to the Museum’s permanent collection and you can see it beside the Osage Nation, or Wahzhazhe, exhibit when you first enter the museum.

I hope you’ll stop by the museum to see what’s new! ❖

- CANDACE SALL

CONSTRUCTION OF A PERSONA

A LOOK AT OUR NEW EXHIBIT ON MASKS AS SELF PORTRAITS

- JOHN CUNNING

The Museum of Anthropology is pleased to announce a new temporary exhibit, "Construction of a Persona, Masks as Self Portraits." This exhibit of 23 masks from the museum's collection explores the concepts of self portraiture and why and how different cultures from around the world use masks. Some masks hide the wearer's identity as they participate in a festival or holiday celebration such as Carnival or Día de Los Muertos. The Japanese Noh mask, or Chinese opera mask, helps actors portray a character on stage, while the mask of Guatemalan hero Tecan Uman, helps recall historic events. Yet other masks tell stories through dance such as the masks of Barong and Rangda and their eternal battle of good versus evil in the Barong Dance.

The exhibit offers museum guests the opportunity to not only explore various cultures through masks, but to consider how we all, from time to time, change the face we show the world and asks the question, what happens when you put on a mask?



Mask, Puerto Rico, 20th century



Mask of Shiva, Puruliyay, West Bengal, India, 1962

This new exhibit is open now through January 2025 and can be visited every day except Monday. The exhibit will also be open for "Art After Hours" on September 19, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. ❖



Mask of Rangda, Bali, 20th century

SUMMER RESEARCH: THE 3D DIGITAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION LAB



Abbey (left) conducting photogrammetry and Brennen (right) doing structured light scanning.

Left picture: Lily and Peyton working together to take detail shots of a wooden mask.

In June, the 3D Digital Heritage Preservation Lab, whose home base is the Museum of Anthropology's Museum Support Center, departed Columbia for a two-week fieldwork research trip to Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Hanover, New Hampshire to work with Arctic museum collections at the Milwaukee Public Museum and Dartmouth College Hood Museum of Art, respectively. The purpose of the research visit was to capture 3D data and 2D photographs of cultural heritage pieces from the Bering Strait region of Alaska. The research team included colleagues and collaborators from Kawerak Inc. (a non-profit Tribal consortium of 20 Alaska Native Tribes from the Bering Strait region), the University of South Florida Center for Digital Heritage and Geospatial Information, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Together, there was a shared goal of knowledge repatriation about Arctic heritage pieces originating from the Alaska Native communities of the Kawerak Region. Knowledge Holders joined on Zoom at both museums and provided comments, insight, and guidance on which heritage pieces they would like to see 3D modeled. Knowledge Holders also shared their insight and knowledge of what the items might have been used for.

Addison (research assistant, MU) and Alex (PhD Student, University of Alaska Fairbanks), captured culturally responsive 2D photographs of the artifacts from both museum collections, specifically pertaining to the Kawerak region. In addition to the culturally responsive photographs, Abby, Peyton and Lily (research assistants, MU) took photographs specifically for 3D modeling, while Brennan (research assistant, MU) used the structured light scanner to record surface geometry of heritage pieces. In total, the 3D Digital Heritage Preservation Lab captured 3D data for 142 pieces and photographed over 560 items. Sincere thanks to the collaborators at Kawerak Inc, the University of South Florida, the Hood Museum of Art, the Milwaukee Public Museum, the University of Missouri, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and the National Science Foundation.

This fall, the lab will begin capturing 2D and 3D data for the Arctic collection housed at the MU Museum of Anthropology. The Arctic collection at the MU Museum of Anthropology is the largest of the three museum's collections with over 1,000 pieces from the Bering Strait region. Knowledge Holders from origin and descendant communities in the Kawerak region will also join us in Columbia for two days to work with the collection. ❖

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

MISSOURI ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH ANNUAL LECTURE

Where the Mountains Meet the Bluegrass: Fort Ancient in Estill County, Kentucky

presented by Dr. Wesley Stoner

SEPTEMBER
26
4:00 pm

Museum of
Anthropology
Enter through Hitt
Street doors



Join us for exciting events and fascinating lectures this fall!

Upcoming Workshops: All workshops are free to attend, however, advance registration is required.

Self Portraits

October 8th
3:45pm to 4:45pm

Expression of Culture

November 14th
3:45pm to 4:45pm

Purposeful Potions

October 15th
3:45pm to 4:45pm

Winter Stories

December 10th
3:45pm to 4:45pm

Fall Events Schedule

SEPTEMBER 19 - 4 pm - 7pm - **Arts After Dark**, multiple locations including the MoA

SEPTEMBER 26 - 4 pm - **Missouri Archaeology Month Annual Lecture: Excavation of Fort Ancient**, Dr. Wesley Stoner (Museum of Anthropology gallery), Refreshments following (Research Room 3)

OCTOBER 08 - 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm - After School Workshop: "Exploring Self Portraits through Masks," ages 8+, Registration required, Museum of Anthropology (Research Room 3)

OCTOBER 15 - 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm, After School Workshop: "Purposeful Potions," ages 8+, Registration required, Museum of Anthropology (Research Room 3)

OCTOBER 23 - 4 pm - **MoA Lecture: The Cross-Cultural Use of Poison by Hunter-Gatherers**, Niko Tapia M.A., Museum of Anthropology (Research Room 3)

NOVEMBER 14 - 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm - After School Workshop: "Expression of Culture," ages 8+, Registration required, Museum of Anthropology (Research Room 3)

Native American Heritage Month Lecture: Contemporary Osage Artist, Norman Akers, University of Kansas

5pm Reception/Art Viewing in the Museum of Anthropology

6 pm Lecture: Norman Akers, Ellis Auditorium

DECEMBER 10 - 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm After School Workshop: Winter Stories, ages 5+, Registration required, Museum of Anthropology (Research Room 3)

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