

# TheNewMuseum

OF CONTEMPORARY ART

## Africa Explores: 20th Century African Art

May 11–August 18, 1991

*Africa Explores* examines a broad range of contemporary African art, and the social and political forces that have shaped it.

Organized by and on view concurrently at The Center for African Art.

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### Gallery Talks

Informal gallery talks are conducted by artists and scholars weekly in May and June.

Free of charge with Museum admission.

**Saturday, May 11, 2:00 p.m.**

#### ***Context and Meaning in African Art***

Sokari Douglas Camp, artist

The display of African art in Western museums involves displacement from one cultural setting to another. Camp discusses the Nigerian context for her own work and asks whether or not Western museums can accurately represent the communal functions and social meanings of African art.

**Saturday, May 18, 2:00 p.m.**

#### ***Digesting the West***

Susan Vogel, Executive Director, The Center for African Art, and Curator of *Africa Explores*

Two widely held misconceptions about Africa are that its traditional art belongs to a glorious, but extinct pre-colonial past, and that modern African art is a secondhand form of Western culture. How does the reality of contemporary Africa contradict these attitudes? What do the various forms of contemporary African art mean from an African standpoint?

**Saturday, June 1, 2:00 p.m.**

#### ***Curator Explores?***

Karin Higa, independent curator

*Africa Explores* attempts to present African art and artists from their own perspectives and in their own voices. Is it possible—or desirable—for a curator to try and render his or her own identity invisible?

**Saturday, June 8, 2:00 p.m.**

#### ***Fragments of Selves: Searching for 'I,' Constructing the 'I'***

Nkiru Nzegwu, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Art History, State University of New York at Binghamton

To be colonized is to be dispossessed. During the 20th century, African artists have questioned who they are, what is the relevance of their art, and who is its significant audience. How have they constructed new identities and come to terms with colonization in their art?

**Saturday, June 15, 2:00 p.m.**

***Mobile Traditions? The Question of Art Historical Globalism***

Pamela Lee, PhD. candidate in Art History, CUNY

International art exhibitions have become a frequent phenomenon in Western museums. What are the ideologies that inform the selection, display, and definition of what constitutes art in another culture?

**Saturday, June 22, 2:00 p.m.**

***African Art and the Art of Seeing***

Stanley Tarver, PhD. candidate in the History of Art, Yale University, former Director of Education at the Studio Museum in Harlem

The meanings of African art are complex and not necessarily understood by Western methods of interpretation. What are some of the criteria for understanding contemporary African art? How can these criteria affect perceptions of contemporary art in our own culture?

**Saturday, June 29, 2:00 p.m.**

***Post-Colonial Art and the Problem of Authenticity***

Sidney Littlefield Kasfir, Professor of Art History, Emory University

What cultural forms are left out of conventional Western definitions of African art? What does this tell us about Eurocentric attitudes toward cultural authenticity?

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**Group Visits**

Group visits are available for adults and school groups grades 7 through 12. Gallery talks, designed to stimulate active inquiry into issues in contemporary art and culture, are provided free of charge for school groups and at a fee of \$50 for adult groups. Fee waiver available to non-profit adult groups. Please call for more information or to arrange a visit.

**Teacher and Student Workshop**

***An Introduction to Contemporary African Art***

Wednesday, May 22, 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Teachers and high school students are invited to attend an informal workshop in conjunction with *Africa Explores*. Free of charge. Please call for more information or to register.

**Africa Explores Slides**

A slide set including 40 works set within their African contexts is available for loan to schools free of charge. Please call for more information or to order.

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**The New Museum of Contemporary Art**

583 Broadway, New York, NY 10012

Offices: (212) 219-1222, Recorded info: (212) 219-1355

**Exhibition hours:** Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday noon-6:00 p.m.  
Friday, Saturday noon-8:00 p.m.

**Suggested admission:** \$3.50 General  
\$2.50 Artists/Students/Seniors

The New Museum programs are generously funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.