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For Immediate Use
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Fowler in Focus: Art and the Unbreakable Spirit of Haiti **Opens Jan 9 at the Fowler Museum at UCLA**



Showcasing a selection of works collected by the Fowler Museum over the past five decades, *Fowler in Focus: Art and the Unbreakable Spirit of Haiti* juxtaposes pieces produced for the international art market with those used in Port-au-Prince Vodou temples and nationwide seasonal festivities. They illustrate how crucial aspects of the Haitian experience—significant dates and galvanizing events—are made tangible through artistic and ritual practice.

Sparkling sequined banners and colorful Christmas lanterns, fanciful animal masks, paintings of historic moments, understated crucifixes and spirit-activated bundles known as *pakèts* demonstrate the capacity of

artistic creativity to powerfully encapsulate the tragedies and triumphs of this island nation.

The Fowler Museum has a long-standing engagement with the arts of Haiti, including the exhibitions *Sacred Arts of Haitian Vodou* (1995), *Saluting Vodou Spirits: Haitian Flags from the Fowler Collection* (2004) and *Divine Revolution: The Art of Edouard Duval-Carrié* (2004–2005). The Fowler's collection of Vodou arts is among the finest public holdings of Haitian arts in the United States.

Fowler in Focus: Art and the Unbreakable Spirit of Haiti is curated by Patrick A. Polk, the Fowler Museum's curator of Latin American and Caribbean popular arts, and will be on view in the Fowler in Focus gallery, the central space within the long-term exhibition *Intersections: World Arts, Local Lives*. Fowler in Focus is dedicated to rotating installations of new acquisitions, sub-collections, and particular artistic genres in the Fowler's permanent holdings.

The **Fowler Museum at UCLA** is one of the country's most respected institutions devoted to exploring the arts and cultures of Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and the Americas. The Fowler is open Wednesdays through Sundays, from noon to 5 p.m.; and on Thursdays, from noon until 8 p.m. The museum is closed Mondays and Tuesdays. The Fowler Museum, part of UCLA Arts, is located in the north part of the UCLA campus. Admission is free. Parking is available for a maximum of \$10 in Lot 4. For more information, the public may call 310/825-4361 or visit fowler.ucla.edu.

Related Event:

Saturday, January 29, 1–6 pm

Haiti Stories/*Istwa Ayiti*

In a series of discussions moderated by author and journalist Amy Wilentz, scholars across several disciplines examine how Haiti is narrated and presented in the world, and how storytelling, in the broadest as well as narrowest senses, affects the country in general and in the aftermath of the earthquake. Speakers include filmmaker Jonathan Demme, *The New York Times* reporter Deborah Sontag, novelist and writer Madison Smartt Bell, UCLA professor Donald J. Cosentino, and others. A reception closes the program.

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