

# Anthropology museum unveils African, Mexican art

By Andrea Carden  
Contributing Reporter

Of its two new exhibits, the Museum of Anthropology currently boasts the most valuable one ever donated in the museum's 15-year history, "More than Masks: Objects of Daily Life From the African Continent." This exhibit and "Mexico: Magic and Religion," are displayed in two new galleries built during museum renovations.

According to Mary Berman, the director of the Museum of Anthropology, the "More than Masks" exhibit is so interesting because, "most other museums collect masks or iron work created by African men, but this exhibit includes pottery created by women. This presents women's involvement in African culture."

An anonymous donor who has made donations to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Smithsonian, Emory University and Colgate University donated this African collection to the museum.

The exhibit consists of pottery from different African tribes. Zulu

pots on display represent scarifications made on Africans at adulthood. These pots are called Beer pots and are used for brewing beer.

The exhibit also includes Nupe pots from the Islamic Nupe kingdom in Nigeria. These pots present functional and cultural differences compared to pots from other tribes.

The exhibit contains both pottery and objects of personal adornment, including headrests, carved bowls and stools used by kings.

Beadwork is also on display, such as the Kirdi skirts worn by girls when initiated into womanhood.

The traditional skirts in the exhibit are especially important because tribes today are wearing more Western clothing at initiation ceremonies. "This beadwork brings to light other forms of artistic expression not usually associated with Africa," Berman said.

"Mexico: Magic and Religion," explores a specific religion known as Santeria. Santeria incorporates African beliefs with Catholicism. The exhibit presents both a bilin-

gual and multicultural component.

The collection is made up of pictures relating to the institution of botánica. A botánica is a small retail store and supply center where artisans, religious practitioners, and priests and priestesses of different cultures and religious beliefs purchase ceremonial goods. These ceremonial goods consist of necklaces, candles, beads and symbolic figures, among others.

The faith contains Catholic practices, pre-Hispanic practices, and also reveals aspects of Chinese culture.

"It is a modern religion with great antiquity and contributions of waves of other cultures and religions. This portrays the flexibility and adaptability of the religion," Berman said.

The major importance of this exhibit is its relation and appeal to various groups of people. "This religion includes many practices and beliefs that different cultures can relate to, which makes the exhibit a valuable addition to our museum," Berman said.



Photo courtesy of Museum of Anthropology

The Museum of Anthropology unveiled an exhibit featuring African and Mexican art. The exhibit boasts a diverse collection of works, including a number of pieces done by women.

## Fire

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College that killed one student, University Police Chief Regina Lawson thinks students should not take fire alarms lightly.

"Fire safety is a major concern especially with both these incidents so close to home," she said.

"We're not interested in busting people who don't leave the building. We just want them to get out safely."

Some students, however, argue that alarms are too sensitive. "If they want people to leave the building, smoke detectors should go off when there's a real fire, not when someone burned popcorn in the microwave," the Polo resident said.

Since most of the fire alarms that are set off in the dorms are false, students often question whether they should in fact leave the building.

"I consider staying in," Johnson resident freshman Jerisha Davis said. "But I don't want to stay because I'm afraid that that one time I do, it will be the real

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Freshman

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The majority of false alarms are a result of unattended food in dorm kitchens Lawson said. Occurrences ranging from burnt popcorn to flammable items being left near stovetops have set off fire alarms in the past and Lawson advises student to be more attentive when cooking.

"You must be more aware of what you are doing when you're cooking. Use caution in the kitchen," she said.

In spite of some students' apparent apathy towards fire alarms in residence halls, Lawson says students should be concerned about potential fires.

"Never assume it's not the real thing because it could be, and that's just putting yourselves at risk," she said.

## SG

Student Government meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays. Executive officers may be reached at Ext. 5293 or Box 7292.

### Academic

The committee will present a bill concerning student support for a business minor at the next General Assembly and will present the Leadership Minor bill to associate provost Sam Gladding on Feb. 14. Plans were made to send a letter informing academic departments of the bill concerning two-credit classes that passed last week. They have also been in contact with the Study

Abroad Office in an advisory role.

### Appropriations and Charter

The committee is working on the Wake Forest Paintball Club and Japanese Studies Club Charters. Funding was also allocated to the Running Club and Campus Crusade for Christ.

### Judiciary

The committee discussed upcoming constitutional reform bills and a follow-up of academic departments' commitment to hang honor plaques outside classrooms.

They planned a secondary survey of campaign finance reform, made plans for a meeting with the judicial co-chairs and advisors, and worked on a "Guide to the Honor System."

### Physical Planning

The committee is working on plans for an amphitheater and recently succeeded in getting shower cubbies installed in south campus dorms. Next week they will host a brainstorming session for short-term parking solutions.