

New Directions

Volume 15 | Issue 1

Article 7

1-1-1988

Gallery

Editorial Staff

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dh.howard.edu/newdirections>

Recommended Citation

Staff, Editorial (1988) "Gallery," *New Directions*: Vol. 15: Iss. 1, Article 7.

Available at: <https://dh.howard.edu/newdirections/vol15/iss1/7>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Howard @ Howard University. It has been accepted for inclusion in *New Directions* by an authorized editor of Digital Howard @ Howard University. For more information, please contact digitalservices@howard.edu.

Gallery

These photographs depict objects of art from the Permanent Collection and inaugural exhibitions of the National Museum of African Art at its new home on (under) The Mall, on Independence Avenue, directly across from the equally new (also sub-ground) Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, which houses Asian and Near Eastern art. Both museums opened for public viewing on September 28, 1987.

The National Museum of African Art "is like a mosaic — small glistening pieces of stone that are carefully and permanently placed together," says its director, Sylvia H. Williams.

"This museum is part of our own cultural and intellectual heritage. This fact alone is reason to celebrate its opening. I think, however, that this heritage is part of a deeper and larger purpose. One of the most permanent aspects of human genius is the ability to create images of extraordinary and enduring aesthetic power. That aspect of human genius is at the heart of our deeper and larger purpose. These works of art are a profound record of human experience; they are also a measure of a society's greatness."

The National Museum of African Art was formerly a private institution which was established in 1964. It became part of the Smithsonian family on August 13, 1979 by act of Congress. Its Permanent Collection includes approximately 6,000 objects of African art and culture, south of the Sahara.

More than 100 selected art pieces from the museum's Permanent Collection are currently on display as part of five important inaugural exhibitions of more than 300 art objects from Africa, some dating back to the 16th century.

Except for an entrance pavilion above ground, the museum's exhibition halls and offices are located two levels below ground. It has a working space of nearly 69,000 square feet. □

(Photo credits: Ursula Didoni, Ken Heinen, Franko Khoury, Jeffrey Ploskonka, Dianne White)



Female figure and children: Nigeria (wood)



Mask: Zaire and Angola (wood, fiber, metal)



Salt cellar: Sierra Leone (ivory)



Figure of woman and child: Zaire (wood, mirror glass inlay, glass beads, metal)



Head of an Oba (king): Benin Kingdom, Nigeria
(cast copper alloy, iron inlay)



Oath-taking figure: Zaire (wood, metal, raffia, cloth, pigment, terra-cotta, cowry shell)

31



Divination cup: Nigeria (wood)

Photo Credit: Ken Heinen



Bowl with figures: Nigeria (wood, pigment)



Wrapper: Ghana (silk)



Face mask: Tanzania (wood, glass beads, hair, beeswax)