

*Celebrate!*

SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL  
MUSEUM OF AFRICAN ART  
50 YEARS OF THE ARTS  
AND CULTURES OF AFRICA  
WITH A STAR-STUDED EVENT



50th Anniversary Gala

National Museum of African Art

November 7, 2014

**Emcees**

Samuel L. Jackson

LaTanya Richardson Jackson

**Featuring**

Jill Scott

And other surprise guests

Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole  
and the advisory board of the  
National Museum of African Art  
warmly invite you to a celebratory  
evening with special guests  
Drs. Camille and Bill Cosby



Advisory board member  
Camille O. Cosby, Ed.D.,  
and director Johnnetta  
Betsch Cole, Ph.D.

On November 7, 2014, the National Museum of African Art will host its 50th Anniversary Gala.

On June 3, 1964, at the height of the civil rights movement, founding director Warren M. Robbins (1923-2008) opened the doors of the Museum of African Art to promote cross-cultural communication through engagement with and dialogue about the arts of Africa. Housed in a Capitol Hill town house once owned by the abolitionist and statesman Frederick Douglass, the museum became part of the Smithsonian Institution in 1979 by an act of Congress and was renamed the National Museum of African Art.

Over these fifty years, the museum has continued to steadfastly advance Warren Robbins's vision and has been unwavering in its commitment to champion the beauty and power of the diverse arts and cultures of Africa and their relevance to all our lives.

**Gala Honorees**

Bruce Onobrakpeya

Artist

Lydia Puccinelli Robbins

Robbins Center for Cross Cultural Communication



## Join us and be the first to view *Conversations*, with artworks from the never-before-exhibited Cosby Collection.

Our signature event celebrates not only the museum's fiftieth anniversary, but the opening of a very special exhibition, *Conversations: African and African American Artworks in Dialogue*, featuring works from the collections of the National

Museum of African Art and Drs. Camille and Bill Cosby.

Guests to the gala will have the unprecedented opportunity to view *Conversations* and, for the first time, artworks from the Cosby Collection prior to the official opening.



## The museum has, for fifty years, been a place for cross-cultural communication through the arts of Africa.



Proceeds from this fundraising gala will benefit the programs and exhibitions of the National Museum of African Art. The museum has, for fifty years, been a place for cross-cultural communication through the arts of Africa. We now look forward to the next fifty years!

Under the leadership of Johnnetta Betsch Cole, the museum is securing its role as the premier institution for celebrating the arts of Africa with a worldwide audience. Located on the National Mall, which hosts millions of visitors a year, the museum is in a unique place to share the story of the arts of Africa and its diaspora with a diverse audience.

In addition to our active exhibition schedule that showcases the visual arts of Africa, from traditional to contemporary, there are educational programs—such as docent-led tours, hands-on workshops, musical perfor-

mances, and storytelling—for visitors of all ages. The museum takes the message outside the building into local, national, and international communities. Our outreach activities go into schools, community groups, and festivals. We also provide video conferencing to teach children from around the United States about the arts of Africa.

Coming to the museum is a homecoming—a place to engage with the arts and cultures from where humanity began, a chance for art to open new doors. To our friends and visitors, we say, “welcome home” to your National Museum of African Art. All of this we can offer free to the public through outside financial assistance. Your donation towards our 50th Anniversary Gala will support these programs and secure our efforts for future generations.

## Sponsors receive an exclusive opportunity to showcase their brand to leaders who are shaping African markets.

Guests attending the 50th Anniversary Gala will include international business leaders, foreign ministers, ambassadors, thought leaders, lobbyists, philanthropists, and leaders

of U.S. government agencies. Through your sponsorship of the National Museum of African Art and its 50th Anniversary Gala, these key decision makers will see your commitment to Africa.



# Sponsorship levels

## Platinum

\$250,000

- VIP reception
- Two seats at the head table with honorees and special guests
- Two premium tables (20 tickets)
- Prominent sponsor listing and logo display (inside front cover) in gala program and in all print, web, and publicity materials
- Twenty-five complimentary exhibition catalogues
- Curator-led tour of museum and luncheon with the director (maximum 20 people)
- Opportunity to hold a daytime meeting in the museum (maximum of 20 people)

## Diamond

\$100,000

- VIP reception
- One seat at the head table with honorees and special guests
- One premium table (10 tickets)
- Sponsor listing and logo display (inside back cover) in gala program and in all print, web, and publicity materials
- Ten complimentary exhibition catalogues
- Curator-led tour of museum and luncheon with the director (maximum 10 people)
- Opportunity to hold a daytime meeting in the museum (maximum of 10 people)

## Gold | Entertainment Sponsor

\$75,000

- VIP reception
- One premium table (10 tickets)
- Sponsor listing and logo display (center page) in gala program and in all print, web, and publicity materials
- Five complimentary exhibition catalogues
- Curator-led tour of museum (maximum 10 people)
- Special recognition at gala

### **Silver**

\$50,000

- VIP reception
- One premium table (10 tickets)
- Sponsor listing and logo display (full page) in gala program and in all print, web, and publicity materials
- Five complimentary exhibition catalogues
- Curator-led tour of museum (maximum 10 people)

### **Bronze**

\$25,000

- VIP reception
- One table (10 tickets)
- Listing as host sponsor and logo display (1/2 page) in gala program and in all print, web, and publicity materials
- Three complimentary exhibition catalogues

### **Reception sponsor**

\$10,000

- Four seats at gala table
- Sponsor listing and logo display (1/4 page) in gala program and on museum signage
- Special recognition during reception

### **Supporter**

\$5,000

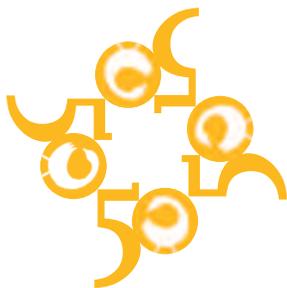
- Two seats at gala table
- Listing as Supporter in gala program



## For more information

We are dedicated to assisting you in realizing all the benefits available through a relationship with the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art. For more information, please contact

Marie Woodward Graves  
Associate Director for Advancement  
P.O. Box 37102, MRC 708  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012  
202.633.4648 office  
202.357.4629 fax  
gravesmw@si.edu



**African Art**  
*Beautiful. Powerful. Diverse.*

## National Museum of African Art Gala

### **Director**

Johnnetta Betsch Cole, Ph.D.

### **Advisory Board**

Stuart Bohart, chair  
R. Lucia Riddle, vice-chair  
Kwame Anthony Appiah, Ph.D.  
Camille O. Cosby, Ed.D.  
Henry Drewal, Ph.D.  
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Mustafa Jama  
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Gwendolyn Mikell, Ph.D.  
Magdalene Johnson Obaji  
Adebayo Ogunlesi  
The Honorable Anne-Imelda Radice  
The Honorable Robin Sanders  
Asif Shaikh  
Renee Stout  
Christine Warnke, Ph.D.

### *Ex Officio Members*

G. Wayne Clough, Secretary  
Smithsonian Institution  
Richard Kurin, Under Secretary  
for History, Art, and Culture  
Smithsonian Institution

### **Gala Planning Committee**

Marcella Jones, chair  
Eveline Accrombessi  
Alvah Beander  
Nancy "Bitsey" Folger  
Anita L. Henri  
Magdalene Johnson Obaji  
Asif Shaikh  
Christine Warnke, Ph.D.

### *African Art Staff*

Bonnie B. Berry  
Eddie Burke  
Frank Esposito  
Marie Woodward Graves  
Migs Grove  
Sarah L. Holmes  
Colleen Morith  
Brigid Slipka  
Lisa Buck Vann  
Kimberly Mayfield Williams

### **Gala Host Committee**

Marcella Jones, chair  
Stuart Bohart  
Camille O. Cosby, Ed.D.  
Jack Edlow  
Jane Fox-Johnson  
R. Lucia Riddle  
Reggie Van Lee

*Current as of July 15, 2014*

I believe that if you do not know where you have been, it is impossible to know where you are going. One of the great values of the National Museum of African Art is that they let us know where we have been. This museum is the collective memory of the people.

DR. MAYA ANGELOU (1928–2014)  
*Dr. Angelou served as honorary campaign chair of the National Museum of African Art's national campaign from summer 2010 to May 28, 2014.*



Photographs by Franko Khoury unless noted otherwise

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Yinka Shonibare

b. 1962, England

*Black Gold I* (detail)

2006

Acrylic paint on Dutch wax printed

cotton canvas

330 x 673 cm

Museum purchase, 2008-2-1

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Sakalava or Bara artist, Madagascar

Funerary sculpture (detail)

Early to mid-20th century

Wood, pigment, metal

180 x 24.5 x 27.5 cm

National Museum of African Art, gift of

Walt Disney World Co., a subsidiary of

The Walt Disney Company, 2005-6-4

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Artist Victor Ekpuk in front of *Composition #1*

Photograph by Victor Ekpuk, 2009

*page 7*

Sokari Douglas Camp, b. 1958, Nigeria

*Small Iriabo*

1987

Steel, wood, paint, motor

140 x 41.9 x 40.6 cm

Museum purchase, 97-5-1

*page 8*

Bruce Onobrakpeya

b. 1932, Nigeria

*Ibiebe ABC III* (detail)

2000

Ink on paper

Framed: 113 x 91.4 x 5.1 cm

Museum purchase, 2005-7-1

*page 10*

Nuna artist, Burkina Faso,

Mask

Mid-20th century

Wood, pigment, metal

60.5 x 173 x 17 cm

Gift of Walt Disney World Co., a subsidiary of The Walt Disney Company, 2005-6-47

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Community Day, 2010

Photograph by Rosina Memolo

950 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE SW  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



Smithsonian  
*National Museum of African Art*

