

# Calendar of Events

January – April, 2007

MUSEUM of  
Anthropology  
at the University of  
British Columbia



## Exhibitions

### The Village is Tilting: Dancing AIDS in Malawi

February 6 – September 3, 2007

Opening Reception Tuesday, February 6, 7:00 pm

Guest Curator's Talk Tuesday, February 20, 7:00 pm

For over a thousand years the Chewa people of Malawi have reaffirmed their collective voice and identity through the masked spirit dances of Gule Wamkulu (the great dance). Yet, like the Chewa themselves, the community rituals of Gule Wamkulu have continually re-adapted to changing forces and events. The most recent of these forces has been the devastating AIDS pandemic and its uncompromising sweep across Africa.



Top, *Chadzunda*, "The old man".  
Photos: Douglas Curran.

*The Village is Tilting: Dancing AIDS in Malawi* incorporates a series of powerful masks, life-size photographs, video interviews in Chichewa (with English subtitles), and dance footage to document the depth of awareness and cultural response to the AIDS pandemic by rural Malawians. More than a plaintive victim's cry, *The Village is Tilting* uses elements of Gule Wamkulu itself – dance, drama, dialogue, and humour – to strip away conventional images of AIDS to reveal its inextricable links to an interconnected set of conditions and causes: poverty, gender inequality, and civil injustice.

The exhibition is guest curated and assembled by Vancouver-based photographer Douglas Curran, who has documented the Chewa mask culture for over ten years. In conjunction with the show, Mr. Curran will speak about his experiences in Malawi on Tuesday, February 20 at 7:00 pm at MOA.

In addition to the video, photographs, and masks that form the exhibition, a three-day public Dialogue will examine AIDS in relation to African education, economic development, representation, and cultural identity. "Perceptions of Africa: A Dialogue" takes place March 8-10, 2007. For details, see Public Programs listings below.

Thanks to exhibition sponsors *The Georgia Straight* and *Deans Knight Capital Management Ltd.*

### Wheel: Overlays

An Installation by Edgar Heap of Birds

March 20 – April 29, 2007

*Wheel: Overlays* is a site-specific installation created for MOA's Great Hall by renowned Native American artist Edgar Heap of Birds, who lives and works in Oklahoma. The installation comprises ten semi-transparent "tree forms" set in a 40-foot circular arrangement. Each form is 12 feet high, its vertical structure referencing the forked-tree supports used in Plains solstice lodges.

Using text, acronyms, dates, maps, diagrams, and symbolic motifs, Heap of Birds describes and encodes Native American political history and experience. At MOA, the installation and the stories it represents stand in relationship to the Northwest Coast First Nations totem poles permanently displayed around it. Both the tree forms and the adjacent cedar poles record, codify, and reference collective histories. Both speak to questions of self-representation, display, and the ways that histories and lived experience are told and shared, or withheld, in public domains.

"In the forest of mylar and wood," says Heap of Birds, "we witness the merger of Native peoples of Canada and America, their creative expressions standing together as one, and our combined modern and traditional histories."

### Lyle Wilson Carving in Great Hall

Weegit, meaning "Great Man" in the Haisla language, is known along the Northwest Coast as a magical raven. In his latest incarnation, Weegit takes the form of a three-foot diameter, red-cedar mask being carved in the Great Hall by Lyle Wilson. Weegit appears in the center of the mask, surrounded by a corona of rays symbolizing the rays of the sun, as well as the sharp tongues he uses to talk himself into so many of his (mis)adventures. Once Lyle has completed this work in January, he will undertake another carving project, also in the Great Hall.

### "A Partnership of Peoples" Exhibit

The Museum has recently embarked upon a major Renewal Project known as "A Partnership of Peoples" (for details, see [www.moa.ubc.ca/renewal](http://www.moa.ubc.ca/renewal)). In this exhibit, MOA displays its plans for expansion and renovation, a scale model, and samples of architectural details, finishings, and furnishings. We also open a window onto our Digitization Studio, in which real, live photographers are using state-of-the-art digital cameras and high-speed computers to capture high resolution images of the collections on a daily basis. Six cinema-screen monitors bring digitization to the forefront of the exhibit, where Museum visitors can observe staff zoom into 128 MB images to reveal the tiniest details. We are currently digitizing the collections of Korea, China and, of course, the Northwest Coast.

### Explore our Drawers

In preparation for Renewal, MOA has been re-organizing some of its collections. In particular, we've moved a number of drawer units, formerly located deep within Visible Storage, to more prominent locations in the public galleries. These drawer units contain objects from around the world – Asia, Africa, Oceania. Bring the kids, and explore the wonders of the world.



Digitization Studio. Photo: Jessica Bushey.

## Public Programs

### Searching for African Solutions to Contemporary Challenges

Africa Awareness Symposium

Opening Ceremony, Museum of Anthropology

Tuesday, January 23, 2007, 5:30 pm (pay as you can; \$5 suggested per person)

"Searching for African Solutions to Contemporary Challenges" is the theme of this year's Africa Awareness Symposium at UBC (January 22-27, 2007). MOA is co-hosting the opening event, which features a choral rendition of "Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika" and a keynote speaker. The symposium provides unique opportunities for members of UBC and the public to focus on contemporary issues in Africa. For conference information, please contact [africa-awareness@mail.arts.ubc.ca](mailto:africa-awareness@mail.arts.ubc.ca).

Atsile Adzemange ("May the Survivors Prevail").  
Photo: Douglas Curran.

## MOA Notes & News

### Don't Miss Out!

To receive regular notice of current events at MOA, email [info@moa.ubc.ca](mailto:info@moa.ubc.ca), and add your name to the list. We'll keep you posted on exhibits, talks, and special events.

### In Memoriam

Sadly, respected 'Namgis carver Doug Crammer (Halakas'la Kesu) passed away on November 6, 2006. He will be remembered for his immense contributions to Northwest Coast art, as well as his dry sense of humour and love of long coffee breaks, which he frequently enjoyed with staff, students, and volunteers while in residence at MOA. He is greatly missed.

### New Staff

On November 15, 2006 Dr. Roberta Kremer joined MOA as temporary replacement for Public Programs and Education Curator Jill Baird, who is on leave to pursue her Ph.D. In December, Dr. Ulrike Radermacher was appointed Reciprocal Research Network Project Coordinator.



Teddy Balangu's pole being raised in the Great Hall. Photo: Ken Mayer.

### South Pacific Pole Unveiled

On Sunday, December 10, MOA celebrated the completion of an important clan pole created for the Museum by Teddy Sapame Balangu, master carver from Palembang, Papua New Guinea. Teddy was the winner of the 2006-07 Andrew Fellowship, which was created through a generous donation to UBC by Geoffrey and Margaret Andrew.



Dr. Elizabeth Johnson.  
Photo: Carol Mayer.

### Beloved Curator Retires

After 27 years of outstanding service and commitment to the Museum of Anthropology, Dr. Elizabeth Johnson, Curator (Asia), retired on November 30, 2006. Dr. Johnson's career included overseeing the Museum's collections and documentation, conducting extensive research on the textile collection, curating award-winning exhibitions, and working collaboratively with local individuals and groups from Musqueam, the Chinese Opera Association, and the Guatemalan community. She also developed important relationships with international groups from Hong Kong, Korea,

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# Public Programs *continued*

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## A Hierarchy of Existences: Talk by Douglas Curran

Tuesday, February 20, 2007, 7:00 pm (pay as you can; \$5 suggested per person)

The realm of Chewa spirituality is without apocalyptic vision, and focuses on the practical and pragmatic, rather than the mystical and futuristic. In this talk, *The Village is Tilting* guest curator Douglas Curran describes how the Chewa organize their metaphysical universe, and its relationship to the spirits of animals and mankind.

## Asian Illuminations Lecture Series

MOA and the Canadian Society for Asian Arts are pleased to present the final two lectures in a series of four by some of the world's leading Asian art historians (the first two in the series were presented last Fall).

### *Of Border and Battle Lines: A Critique of Art Historical Perspectives on Cultural Geography, Race, Identities, and the Politics of Ownership*

Tuesday, February 27, 7:00 pm (pay as you can; \$5 suggested per person)  
Dr. Boreth Ly, Rockefeller Resident Fellow, Simpson Centre for the Humanities, University of Washington, Seattle

### *Patterns Cut in Stone: Kings and the Agency of Calligraphy in Ming China*

Tuesday, March 27, 7:00 pm (pay as you can; \$5 suggested per person)  
Dr. Craig Clunas, Percival David Professor of Chinese and East Asian Art, School of Oriental and African Studies, London



Hanging Scroll by Wen Zhengming, National Palace Museum, Taipei, Taiwan. Image courtesy Craig Clunas.

## Perceptions of Africa: A Dialogue

Thursday, March 8 – Saturday, March 10, 2007, Great Hall

\$9/night or \$20 for the 3-night series; students \$7/night or \$15 for series. For ticket info, call 604.827.5618.

In association with the exhibition, *The Village is Tilting: Dancing AIDS in Malawi*, MOA is proud to present "Perceptions of Africa: A Dialogue," three evenings of presentations, conversation, and reflection on themes of Africa, AIDS, and representation of Africa by the West.

The African continent, rich in diversity, culture, and complexity, is often viewed in a context of despair and desperation that excludes the other multifaceted realities that exist in a continent of over fifty countries. Through this Dialogue, we will review some of the ways in which African countries are represented in the west, look at ways in which African countries are finding their own solutions in addressing AIDS, and create a forum where the public can participate in reviewing, responding to, and reflecting on these themes.

Along with African students, presenters include Michael Gondwe, National Education Coordinator for the Museums of Malawi; Juliet Tembe, Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees of the AIDS Support Organization; and Douglas Curran, guest curator of *The Village is Tilting: Dancing AIDS in Malawi*. The keynote speaker for March 8 is Dr. Handel Wright, UBC Canada Research Chair in Comparative Cultural Studies and Director of the Centre for Culture, Identity, and Education. This is the second in the Museum's annual Global Dialogue series, following on our very successful "Dialogue of Cities" event last June.



Malawian Wedding. Photo: Doug Curran.

### *Representations of Africa*

Thursday, March 8, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

### *African Agency, Local Initiatives, and AIDS*

Friday, March 9, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

### *Respond, Reflect, Engage: A Discussion (Reception to follow)*

Saturday, March 10, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

# MOA Research Report

MOA continually strives for excellence in all of its activities – from collections management to the presentation of exhibitions and public programming. Here we report on some of our current research and community-based projects.

## Curators Consult with Communities

From October 6-13, Dr. Jennifer Kramer, Curator Pacific Northwest, consulted with the Nuxalk Nation in Bella Coola about MOA's Renewal Project, including options for display of Nuxalk materials in the new Research Centre. On October 24, MOA Curators Pam Brown and Dr. Susan Rowley met with three Ktunaxa community members about the Project, the reorganization of the collection, and future endeavours. From November 23-27, Jennifer and Karen Duffek (Curator, Contemporary Visual Arts) traveled to Alert Bay and Kingcome Inlet to consult with the U'mista Cultural Society and Tsawataineuk community members about the Renewal Project and documentation of the Kwakwaka'wakw collections in the new Research Centre.

Also in November, presentations about the Renewal Project were made by Terri Reid of the Heiltsuk Cultural Education Centre at Waglisla, B.C., based on a community consultation package prepared under the supervision of Pam Brown, Curator Pacific Northwest. Pam is currently working with Amber-Dawn Bear Robe (M.A. student from the University of Arizona) to compile consultation packages for the communities of Iskut, Telegraph Creek, and Dease Lake. She is also working with MOA volunteer Courtney Yilk to compile a binder of catalogue records for the Tlingit collection.



In-Shuk-ch representatives. Photo: Bill McLennan.



left, Lil'wat representatives; right, Tsleil Waututh representatives. Photo: Bill McLennan.

Throughout the Fall, Bill McLennan, Curator Pacific Northwest, organized community consultations with members of the Tsleil Waututh, Lil'wat, and In-Shuk-ch First Nations, who came to visit their collections at MOA, and to advise on their display in the new Research Centre.

## Museum Staff Attend MCN Conference

In November 2006, three MOA staff attended the Museum Computer Network Conference in Pasadena, California. The sessions were well organized to meet the special interests of MOA representatives: as Digital Imaging Lead, Jessica Bushey attended talks on digital imaging and metadata issues and practices; Information Technology Manager Troy Gauthier focussed on sessions related to the growing use of information technology within museums; and Nancy Bruegeman, Collections Manager, attended sessions on information management, preservation, and delivery.

## Conservation Research Continues at MOA

Conservators Heidi Swierenga and Kathy Bond attended a workshop on the preservation of waterlogged organic materials presented by the Canadian Conservation Institute in Victoria BC. The two-day workshop (November 1-2) focused on the techniques used for stabilizing and conserving wet archaeological wood, basketry, and leather. MOA staff will be using the information presented in the workshop in their continuing research on the stabilization of waterlogged basketry.

## MOA Director Out and About



Dr. Anthony Shelton. Photo: Skooker Broom.

From September 2-17, 2006, Director Dr. Anthony Shelton visited over two dozen museums and galleries in China as part of a Canada-China Cultural Exchange Mission. Together with directors, executives, and presidents of various museums and galleries from across Canada, Dr. Shelton visited institutions in Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, Guangzhou, and elsewhere. At the end of the trip, Dr. Shelton spent a few days in Hong Kong meeting collectors, museum colleagues, and Ministry representatives. He also gave a talk on the MOA Renewal Project to members of the Canadian Chinese Association and Canadian Chamber of Commerce of Hong Kong, and to the UBC Alumni Association in Toronto.

On November 16 and 22, Dr. Shelton gave talks to Faculty of Arts Alumni and at Robson Square respectively on "The 21st-Century Museum," in which he examined ways in which museums have grown and changed in recent times in response to mounting calls for reform, innovation, and democratization.

and China, and in recent years worked with Director Dr. Anthony Shelton to develop the idea of an Asian wing at MOA. Dr. Johnson taught Anthropology and Museum Studies courses for ten years as an Associate of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology, supervised graduate student research in a number of UBC Departments, published regularly, and carried out significant programs of academic research. She established for herself an enviable reputation as a remarkably erudite academic and curator, an inspiring teacher, and a highly principled proponent of a democratically centred and open museology.

All of us would like to express our thanks to Dr. Johnson for her important contributions to the Museum and the University of British Columbia. We wish her the best in her retirement and hope to continue our association with her in the future.

## Information

Recorded Info: 604.822.3825  
Museum Shop: 604.822.3440  
Fax: 604.822.2974  
Email: info@moa.ubc.ca  
www.moa.ubc.ca

## Museum and Shop Hours

Winter (Sept 5, 2006 – May 18, 2007):  
Closed Mondays; Open Wed – Sun 11 am to 5 pm; Tuesdays 11 am to 9 pm, Tuesdays 5 pm to 9 pm Pay as You Can.

Summer (May 19 – October 8, 2007):  
Daily 10 to 5 pm; Tuesdays 5 to 9 pm Pay as You Can.

## Admission

\$9 Adults; \$7 Students & Seniors 65+ (UBC staff, students, and faculty free with ID). Tuesdays 5 pm to 9 pm Pay as You Can (suggested \$5 per person, including groups). Family \$25; children under 6 free. VUIGuide rental: \$5.00 per unit. Group rates & guided tours available by booking in advance (call 604.822.4643). MOA is wheelchair accessible.

## Parking and Transit

Pay parking available (coins accepted). Buses: #4, 9, 17, 25, 41, 43, 44, 49, 84, 258, 480, or contact Translink at 604.953.3333 or www.translink.bc.ca.

## Guided Gallery Walks

Please call 604.822.5087 for times.

## Membership

MOA memberships are a great way to keep in touch with our changing exhibits, programs, and research initiatives. They also make excellent gifts!

For as little as \$30 you or a friend can enjoy:

- A year of free admission to MOA
- Free passes for family and friends
- Free mailings of our Events Calendar
- Invitations to openings & special events
- A 15% discount on Shop purchases

Membership packages available for individuals, families, students and seniors. Call 604.822.5087 for more information.

MOA programs are generously supported by visitors, members, and donors; Volunteer Associates and Shop Volunteers; Department of Canadian Heritage Museums Assistance Program; Virtual Museum of Canada, Canadian Heritage Information Network; Canadian Council of Archives; Canada Council for the Arts; British Columbia Arts Council; Aboriginal Career Community Employment Services Society; Social Science and Humanities Research Council; The Vancouver Foundation; The Annenberg Foundation; 2010 Legacies Now; Andrew Fellowship; and Quiring Loewen Trust.



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