



For immediate release

## ***Haitian Art from the Hughes Collection***

**Exhibition highlights Lawrence couple's acquisitions  
of wide variety of 20<sup>th</sup>-century Haitian artists**

Exhibition runs through Sept. 16, 2007, North Balcony

### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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### **PROMOTIONAL IMAGES AVAILABLE**

**Lawrence, Kansas** — A new exhibition at the Spencer Museum of Art celebrates the 20<sup>th</sup>-century visual arts of Haiti through the diverse collection of a Lawrence couple who lived there for four years during the early- to mid-1970s. The Spencer is pleased to present ***Haitian Art from the Hughes Collection***, on view in the North Balcony from July 7 through September 16, 2007.

Lawrence residents Harry Hughes—at the time a Public Affairs Officer for the American Embassy—and his wife Mary Lou lived in Haiti from 1972 to 1976 and developed a deep admiration for the nation's art. They eventually established a collection of nearly 100 Haitian works. During a previous stay in the Republic of Dahomey (now the Republic of Benin), Mary Lou, in particular, had made it a point to familiarize herself with the African aesthetic that would later inform her profound interest in Haitian art. In Haiti, she enthusiastically fostered a connection with the community of artists that frequented the Centre d'Art in the capital city, Port-au-Prince. Indeed, at the Centre d'Art—a space where artists could express themselves freely, gain instruction, and exhibit their work—Mary Lou became acquainted with many of the painters and sculptors whose creations she would collect.

*Haitian Art from the Hughes Collection* exhibits works by the “first and second generation” of artists whose continuing creative evolution is often associated with the founding of the Centre d'Art in 1944 by DeWitt Peters, an American conscientious objector who had originally come to Haiti to teach English as an alternative to military service. The exhibition covers many of Haiti's leading painters and sculptors, including Rigaud Benoît, Wilson Bigaud, Murat Brierre, Célestin Faustin, Jacques-Enguerrand Gourgue, Jasmin Joseph, Adam Leontus, Philomé Obin, Salnave Phillipe-Auguste, André Pierre, Ernst Prophète, Robert St. Brice, and Bernard Séjourné.

Works from the Hughes Collection have been previously shown in exhibitions at the Musée d'Art du Collège Saint Pierre in Port-au-Prince, the Brooklyn Museum, the Milwaukee Art Museum, the Ramapo College of New Jersey, Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria, the Davenport Museum of Art in Iowa, the New Orleans Museum of Art, the Staatliche Kunsthalle in Berlin, and at the City Hall in Washington D.C. A number of works have been reproduced for publication as well, including in such important texts as Ute Stebich's *Haitian Art* and Seldon Rodman's *Where Art is Joy, Haitian Art: the First Forty Years*.

The exhibition was organized by Amanda Martin Hamon, SMA Public Outreach and Special Events Coordinator, and Sean Barker, Loo Family Intern in Education, with much help from Mary Lou and Harry Hughes.

### ***Haitian Art from the Hughes Collection***

#### **Exhibition Programs**

7.14

Children's Art Appreciation Class: "Haitian Art" / 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM / To enroll, contact the SMA Education Department, 785-864-0137 or [smakids@ku.edu](mailto:smakids@ku.edu) / SMA Central Court & Galleries

7.16

KU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute: "Haitian Art: Reflections on a Unique Island Culture" / Special Preview for Osher Members Only / 2-4 PM / SMA Central Court / Class sponsored by KU Continuing Education. Enrollment required. Please contact University of Kansas Continuing Education, 785-864-KUCE(5823) [www.kuce.org](http://www.kuce.org) or [kuce@ku.edu](mailto:kuce@ku.edu)

8.23

Gallery Conversation: "Haitian Art & Culture" / Join curator Amanda Martin-Hamon in a conversation about the exhibition / 12:15 PM / SMA North Balcony

8.24

Town and Gown Forum: "The Spirit of Haiti: Art, Life, and Culture" / 10 AM -12 PM / SMA Central Court / Join KU faculty members Gitti Salami, art history, Bryant Freeman, founder and Director of KU's Institute of Haitian Studies, and Chancellor Robert Hemenway for a series of informal presentations about art, life and culture in Haiti. Moderated by Amanda Martin-Hamon, SMA / Sponsored by the Hall Center for the Humanities and Spencer Museum of Art

9.6

Films: *Divine Horsemen: The Living Gods of Haiti* and *Voodoo and the Church in Haiti* / 7 PM / SMA Auditorium

9.13

Senior Sessions: *Meet the Collectors* / Join Mary Lou and Harry Hughes in a conversation about their Haitian experience / 10 AM / SMA North Balcony

#### **Printed Resources**

- Cosentino, Donald, ed. *Sacred Arts of Haitian Vodou*. Los Angeles, Calif.: UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History, 1995.
- Deren, Maya. *Divine Horsemen: the Living Gods of Haiti*. New Paltz, NY: McPherson & Co. 1953.

- Hayes, Anne Marie and Michelle Robinson. "Haitian Art: Exploring Cultural Identity." *Art Education*. 2001. 54:1, pp. 25-32.
- McCarthy Brown, Karen. *Tracing the Spirit: Ethnographic Essays on Haitian Art: from the Collection of the Davenport Museum of Art*. Davenport, Iowa: The Museum; Seattle: Distributed by University of Washington Press. 1995.
- Seldon Rodman. *Where Art is Joy, Haitian Art: the First Forty Years*. New York: Ruggles de Latour. 1988.
- Stebich, Ute. *Haitian Art*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc. 1978.
- Danticat, Edwidge, Jonathan Demme, and Pebo Voss, ed. 1997. *Island on Fire: Passionate Images of Haiti from the Collection of Jonathan Demme*. Nyack, NY: Kaliko Press. 1997.
- Salami, Gitti. "Popular Painting and Sculpture of Haiti: The Appeal of the Creole to the Post-modern Consciousness of Industrialized Nations." *Baobab*. 1998. pp. 17-29.

#### Online Resources

- Bob Corbett's Haiti Page  
<http://www.webster.edu/~corbetre/haiti/haiti.html>
- Haitian/Haitian American Curriculum Teacher/Student Resources K-12  
<http://www.palmbeach.k12.fl.us/MULTICULTURAL/curriculum/Haiti/HaitianStudiesResources.pdf>
- Haitian Culture Curriculum Guide, Grade K-5  
[http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/esol/Eng/Haitian%20Curr.%20\(K-5\).pdf](http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/esol/Eng/Haitian%20Curr.%20(K-5).pdf)  
<http://www.palmbeach.k12.fl.us/MULTICULTURAL/curriculum/Haiti/HaitianStudiesResources.pdf>

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## Spencer Museum of Art

The University of Kansas

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Also find the Spencer...

- On the Web: [www.spencerart.ku.edu](http://www.spencerart.ku.edu)
- E-mail: [spencerart@ku.edu](mailto:spencerart@ku.edu)

### Gallery hours

Tues., Wed., Fri., & Saturday 10 AM—5 PM

Thurs. 10 AM—9 PM

Sun. Noon—5 PM

Closed Monday

**Museum Shop closes 30 minutes before the galleries close.**

- **Free parking in Lot 91 after 5 PM on weekdays and all day weekends, excepting home football games.**
- **Parking garage adjacent to Kansas Union is \$1 per hour weekdays, free on Saturdays and Sundays (but unavailable on home football games).**