

# Press Release



April 2011

## ***African Innovations* to Feature 200 Objects from the Museum's Permanent Collection**

Beginning August 12, 2011, the Brooklyn Museum will present a long-term installation of 200 of the finest objects from its renowned collection of African art in the recently renovated gallery space on the first floor. *African Innovations*, a chronological and contextual reinstatement, will be on view while the galleries in which the African collection has been installed since 1935 undergo large-scale renovation.

*African Innovations*, in which works will be arranged historically for the first time, will be framed on either end by two displays. The first, containing masterpieces from the seventh century B.C.E. to 1800 C.E. by artists ranging from those of ancient Nok and Hellenistic North Africa to the Sapi of Sierra Leone and sculptors of the ancient kingdom of Benin, will establish a pattern of Africa's ongoing interaction with other parts of the world. The other display, with a selection of contemporary works, will bring this story up to the present and represents the Museum's first dedicated space for works from present-day Africa.

Selections from the African collection's largest portion, which dates from the early nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century, will be installed between these two end displays, organized by five themes: protection, authority, transitions, performance, and personal beauty.

Among the works on view will be the sculpture *Figure of a Horn Blower*, an important example of Benin's history of stylized naturalism; *Mother with Child (Lupingu Lua Luimpe)*, a Lulua sculpture from the Democratic Republic of the Congo that is considered to be one of the great masterpieces of African art; *Snake Pendant*, a small, delicate work in gold by an unknown Ebríé or Baule artist; and *Skipping Girl* by Yinka Shonibare, a contemporary artist whose figures examine the history of interaction between Europe and Africa, making particular use of Dutch wax fabric, a commodity created in Europe and sold in West Africa.

The Brooklyn Museum was the first museum in America to display African objects as works of art and has one of the largest and most important collections in the country. *African Innovations* continues the Museum's pioneering history in the field, inviting the visitor to examine the Museum's world-famous collection with new eyes and to celebrate centuries of African creativity.

This reinstatement has been organized by Kevin Dumouchelle, Assistant Curator, Arts of Africa and the Pacific Islands, Brooklyn Museum.

## **Brooklyn Museum**

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**GENERAL INFORMATION****Admission:**

Contribution \$10; students with valid I.D. and older adults \$6. Free to Members and children under 12 accompanied by an adult. Group tours or visits must be arranged in advance by calling extension 234.

**Museum Hours:**

Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; first Saturday of each month, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

**Directions:**

Subway: Seventh Avenue express (2 or 3) to Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum stop; Lexington Avenue express (4 or 5) to Nevins Street, cross platform and transfer to the 2 or 3. Bus: B41, B69, B48.

On-site parking available.

**Brooklyn Museum Extended Hours:** The Brooklyn Museum is now open to the public eight additional hours a week and will open each day at 11 a.m.

- Wednesdays 11-6
- Thursdays and Fridays 11-10
- Saturdays and Sundays 11-6

The Museum continues to present *Target First Saturdays*, its popular free evening of art and entertainment, when it remains open until 11 p.m. the first Saturday of each month except September.