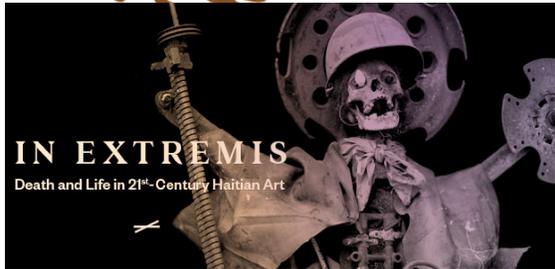




EAC Program



## In Extremis & Curious Creatures

by Dr. Patrick Polk, Curator

Fowler Museum • November 10, 2012 • 11 am

Join us in an in-depth tour of two spellbinding exhibits curated by Dr. Patrick Polk. *In Extremis* offers an unflinchingly honest and viscerally compelling reactions to Haiti's contemporary problems and consists of more than seventy works - paintings, prints, installations, metal sculpture, and mixed-media sculptures by established artists and a new generation of self-taught genre-busters. These artists have moved Haitian sculpture into a new territory by constructing huge figures out of car chassis, human skulls, tire chains, and discarded computer parts. Many of their sculptures are manifestations of Bawon (Baron) Samdi (Papa Gede)—the Vodou divinity who presides over mortality, sexuality and rebirth—and of the Gedes, his capricious sons. These bold works dramatically underscore the subject of the exhibition: the disjunction between social collapse and artistic florescence, and how Haitian artists' work can be seen through the prism of this increasingly dominant family of Vodou divinities.

A contrast is *Curious Creatures from Mexican Popular Arts* - approximately forty objects that show how animal figures are imaginatively crafted, drawing on selected family and regional traditions in Mexico. Ranging from familiar wildlife and domesticated species engaged in eccentric activities to wondrously whimsical beasts, the works highlight how varying artistic styles bring fantastic fauna to life. An orchestra of miniature *animalitos* is juxtaposed with a selection of hooped and winged acrobats posing in odd harmony. Woodcarvers contribute brightly colored critters that move from the fanciful to the ferocious while a series of otherworldly earthenware works brings viewers face to face with a snarling two-headed dog and a ravenous six-legged fiend among other weird beings.

RSVP by **NOON November 8** by email [Feelie@ucla.edu](mailto:Feelie@ucla.edu) or call (310) 454-7851. A Chinese chicken salad box lunch will be served in the courtyard if a \$10 check to EAC is sent **asap** to 510 E. Rustic Rd., Santa Monca, CA 90409. Limited to 50 persons.

