



## “The King is a Woman”: Body Politics in Central African Arts



Sunday • December 11, 2011 • 3 – 5 pm

EAC’s 4<sup>th</sup> program is a richly illustrated talk by Drs. Polly and Allen Roberts of UCLA who will present the forms, contexts of use, and cultural meanings of a striking range of Luba, Hema, and Tabwa arts. Polly will discuss the royal arts of the Luba peoples and why **kings** are depicted through **female** images. Luba arts assist memory and the making of histories, divination, and healing, while female images promote the dynamics of the Luba body politic. Beautifully carved thrones, scepters, bow stands, cups, and ceremonial axes will be considered, with special reference to works in the Baums’ collection.

Allen will present works of Luba-related Tabwa people living along the shores of Lake Tanganyika, with a focus upon a special figure ensconced on the Baums’ piano that speaks to encounters between African rulers and European visitors in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, just prior to colonial conquest. Tabwa arts effect transformation while reinforcing status, prestige, and politico-spiritual authority.

A Q&A session will follow. Michael Govan, LACMA’s CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director has been invited to join us. Refreshments will also be served. Limited to the first 50 guests who reserve promptly.

