



SHAPING POWER: LUBA MASTERWORKS

with Dr. Polly Nooter Roberts

Saturday, November 16, 2013 • 10 am- Noon • LACMA • Hammer Bldg.

For EAC's 2nd program we visit *Shaping Power*, the inaugural exhibit of the newly established African Art Gallery at LACMA. Curated by Dr. Roberts from UCLA, these masterpieces represent the richness and complexity of Luba art and provide insight into a world-renowned African aesthetic and cultural legacy. Objects include figurative thrones, elegant scepters, royal cups, intricately carved headrests and ancestral figures, rarely seen in the United States and on view for the first time in Los Angeles. The rare mask (above and never loaned before) combines a supremely regal human face and the inward gaze of a divine being with a coiffure that suggests buffalo horns conveying stealth and strength. These artifacts capture the proud heritage of the Luba peoples, who have endured a turbulent history of colonialism marked by the exploits of King Leopold II, the exploitation of its rich minerals and resources, and marred today by internecine warfare between rebel groups in the Congo. To complement these historical Luba works, a contemporary installation, *Congo: Shadow of the Shadow* by Aimé Mpane, presents a gripping commentary on how power was reshaped during the years of Belgian colonial rule. A male figure formed from 4652 matchsticks suggest the vulnerability as well as resilience of the Congolese people. Here the paradox of human fragility and strength combine as light plays against shadow, substance against ethereality. With only 20+ prized objects, *Shaping Power* is indeed a stunning exhibition!

RSVP by Noon, Nov. 13 to feelie@ucla.edu or call (310) 454-7851

Limited to 50 persons