



The Obsession of the Artist as Collector: Woods Davy

April 23, 2023 | 2 - 4 pm | Venice, CA

“When I first encountered these masks in the late 1980s, I felt them staring at me with an unyielding presence and penetrating expression. I was compelled to stare back. They had an inner reservoir of otherworldliness, even removed from their original ritualistic existence. I immediately saw something in these masks ... something spiritual or magical, beyond what was physically present. Their supernatural combination of human, animal, and spirit was beyond Nature’s order. The intelligence of their architecture combined with their emotional expression made me feel linked to them. Like my steel and stone sculpture of the 1980s, they created something that transcended the sum of those opposites. Not knowing anything about them, I was pulled into a place that felt familiar, but at the same time, was totally unknown to me. Today, after over 30 years of studying and collecting these masks, I see another commonality in the intertwining of my two obsessive passions. Natural order is denied: stones float like clouds and men are transformed into a hybrid of human, animal and spirit. The masks and the sculptures are more than what they look like; they are what they do.”

Join us for a studio visit of Davy's sculptural art and view his 350+ collection of Kifwebe masks from the Songye and Luba peoples. Buy a signed copy of his well-reviewed book, *Kifwebe: A Century of Songye and Luba Masks* 2020.

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