

Carolina Museum Opens African Art Gallery

The North Carolina Museum of Art will open its gallery of African, Oceanic and New World art on January 10, 1987. The initial installation will comprise approximately 55 African works, 35 pre-Columbian objects and 100 10 works from South Pacific cultures, all from the museum's collections.

The 4,500 square foot area is located on the museum's main level adjacent to the Classical Gallery. Although objects from the African, Oceanic and New World collections were occasionally on view at the museum's former location, the new gallery will mark their first

permanent installation. It will be the last remaining permanent collection gallery to be completed in the museum's new building, which opened in April 1983.

The African collection includes fine examples of West African art such as masks, headdress, and figures. Of particular interest are a "Pair of Twin Figures" (Ibeji) from the Yoruba of Nigeria; a "Pair of Antelope Headpieces" (Tji Wara) from the Bamana of Mali; and a "Sawfish Headpiece" from the Ibo of Nigeria.

Sculpture and ceramics of pre-Columbia cultures are featured in the initial

New World installation. The collection is especially strong in the art of Mexico and Guatemala; a focal point of the gallery will be the "Monumental Figure of a Priestess," a clay sculpture from Vera Cruz, Mexico.

Objects from New Ireland, New Guinea and the New Hebrides, including masks and other ceremonial objects, will be on view in the Oceanic area. Of special interest will be a "Malanggan Totem Pole" from New Ireland and a

"Slit Gong" from the New Hebrides which stands nearly 10 feet high.

The opening of the new gallery is made possible by generous contributions from the James G. Hanes Memorial Fund-Foundation and the John Wesley and Anna Hodgkin Hanes Foundation. Many of the objects have been given to the museum by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hanes of Winston-Salem, the Hanes Corp. and the James G. Hanes Memorial Fund. Gordon Hanes is

chairman of the museum Board of Trustees.

Related lectures, performances and films will be scheduled during the winter and spring by the museum's education department.

For information, call the museum at 919-833-1935.

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