

# ACASA

Arts Council of the African  
Studies Association

## FALL 2024 Newsletter – Vol. # 128

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### Newseditor's Greeting

Dear ACASA Members, please find our fall edition of our newsletter below. Thank you to all who sent through contributions. With the change of board this year, we are moving into a different schedule and the newsletter will be coming out a month later than previously. Please contact me with any questions and do send in your items for a full Spring 2025 edition.

Wishing everybody a peaceful transition into the new year,  
Ruth Sacks

ACASA Newsletter Editor  
[newsletter@acasa.org](mailto:newsletter@acasa.org)

### ACASA News



#### The 2024 19th ACASA Triennial Symposium on African Art

In August, nearly 250 scholars, collectors, and enthusiasts of African art convened in Chicago for the 19th Triennial Symposium on African Arts. Over four days, the event featured over

70 conference panels centered on human-centered approaches to African arts. Topics included collaboration, diverse knowledge systems, relationship-building, inclusive thinking, and active listening. The Art Institute of Chicago hosted a remarkable keynote address by Adenike Cosgrove, founder of ÌMỌ DÁRA. Cosgrove discussed how her digital platform empowers enthusiasts, scholars, and collectors of African art. Additionally, ACASA honored leaders in the field with awards for leadership, teaching pedagogy, and achievements in books, dissertations, and curatorial practices. The conference, with its varied speakers, interactive sessions, and networking opportunities, proved to be an invaluable platform for intellectual and professional development.

[Read more on the website](#)

ACASA Conference. Photo by Morgan Kirsch / DePaul Student Photo Agency

## WINTER 2025 Newsletter Submission

### DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 15

The online form is written in English; form instructions are also available in French and Portuguese! All members are kindly asked to use the online form accessible via the "submit your news" button.

- Les instructions sont maintenant [disponibles en français](#). S.V.P. veuillez utiliser le formulaire en ligne après les avoir lus.
- As instruções estão agora [disponíveis em português](#). Por favor, use o formulário online após a leitura.

Want to share something before the next newsletter? [Contact](#) the Social Media Editor directly.

Submit your News!

Follow us and join the conversation  
on social media!

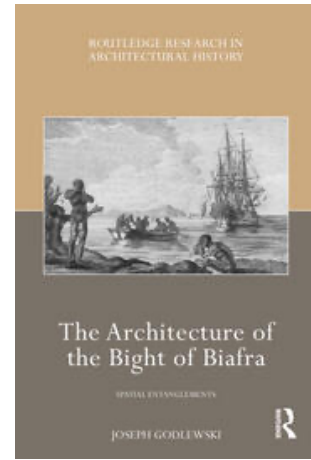


## Member-Submitted News

### Publications

#### The Architecture of the Bight of Biafra: Spatial Entanglements by Joseph Godlewski

ACASA member Joseph Godlewski has written *The Architecture of the Bight of Biafra: Spatial Entanglements*, which examines the history of architecture and artistic production in what is now southeastern Nigeria. Entwined with the expressive culture of the Ékpè society, the region's spatial history continues to shape the material realities of the present. This is an area overlooked by urban and architectural discourse and the book addresses that issue. Since few built artifacts still exist, this study draws from a close reading of written sources—travelers' accounts, slave traders' diaries, missionary memoirs, colonial records, and oral histories—as well as contemporary fieldwork to trace transformations in the region's built environment from the sixteenth century to today. With each chapter focusing on a particular spatial paradigm in this dynamic process, this book uncovers the manifold and inventive ways in which actors strategically adapted the built environment to adjust to changing cultural and economic circumstances.



ISBN 9781032704043  
312 Pages 92 B/W Illustrations  
Published March 6, 2024 by Routledge

[Book announcement on e-flux](#)

Image: Front cover of *The Architecture of the Bight of Biafra: Spatial Entanglement*, Routledge, 2024

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### Opening Soon & Ongoing

**Africa Rising: 21st Century African Photography at the Fitchburg Art Museum, Massachusetts**

**Open until Feb.23, 2025**

Suzanne Revy, reviewer for *whatwhillyouremember.com* writes of

Africa Rising, an exhibition curated by ACASA member Jean Borgatti: The vibrancy of modern-day African cultures is powerfully expressed in the photographic narratives of today's photographers who live and work there. Tackling history, conflict and identity through a range of genres, these artists personify the hopes of their kaleidoscopic continent. One of the most illuminating and enriching exhibitions of the year.



[Review](#)

[Exhibition Website](#)

Image: George Osodi, *Delta Black Gold*, 2013, c-print, Fitchburg Art Museum, purchased with Funding by the Geneviève McMillan-Reba Stewart Foundation

## Révélation! Contemporary Art from Benin at the Centre des Monument Nationaux, Paris

Revelation! Contemporary Art from Benin offers a panoramic tour of contemporary art from Benin, curated by ACASA member Stephan Köhler. The exhibition brings together forty artists and a hundred or so works, some of them previously unseen. Held in the the heart of the Palais royal de la Cité, the exhibition echoes the royal palaces of ancient Danxomé and highlights the extent to which the work of contemporary artists is rooted in the tradition and history of Benin.



Through a diversity of media and supports (painting, sculpture, drawing, photography, video, installation, performance, design, fashion design, etc.), the vitality and uniqueness of the artistic scene in Benin and its diaspora are revealed through a selection of works.

[Exhibition Website](#)

Image: Front cover of the catalogue for Révélation! Contemporary Art from Benin, Editions Herve Chopin, 2024

## Opportunities

### Jobs, Fellowships, & Internships

#### **Assistant Professor of Film and Media Production, St Olaf College, Minnesota**

The Department of Art and Art History and the Film and Media Studies Program at St. Olaf College invite applications for a full-time, tenure track position in Film and New Media at the Assistant Professor level, to begin August 2025.

We are looking for a dynamic artist/filmmaker who can teach film production and new media studio art courses. The successful candidate will teach multiple sections of an introductory course that teaches foundational video, audio, and editing techniques as well as upper-level courses in narrative and documentary filmmaking. Candidates who are able to teach animation, photography, graphic design, sound, and other emerging and time-based media are also encouraged to apply. We are seeking applicants who can both introduce a diverse range of students to the foundations of filmmaking and new media and who can also teach upper-level courses to advanced students. Applicants will need to have completed an MFA in Filmmaking, Video, or related media with experience teaching film and media courses at the undergraduate or graduate level.

[Application details here](#)

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#### **Summer Research Fellowship Program at the Museum of International Folk Art, Sante Fe**

The Museum of International Folk Art (MOIFA) is now offering the MOIFA Summer Research Fellowship Program. This two-year pilot program, beginning in summer 2025, will offer a unique opportunity for scholars, researchers, public folklorists, community arts administrators and practitioners to spend 4-6 weeks in Santa Fe, New Mexico, working on a research project related to MOIFA's renowned folk art collection of over 163,000 objects and MOIFA's Bartlett Library and Archives collections. Research fellows will also have opportunities to engage with MOIFA team members and the local community. Please see the application form for full details.

[Application Details here](#)

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#### **Assistant Professor of the History of Modern Art/Modernism,**

## Georgetown University, Washington DC

The Department of Art and Art History at Georgetown University invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor of the History of Modern Art/Modernism (c. 1800-1960) to begin in August 2025 (application deadline: December 15, 2024). We are looking for candidates who can teach the history of European and American modern art, but whose work engages with approaches to broader transregional, diasporic, and colonial/postcolonial networks. Candidates with interest in interdisciplinary methodologies that emphasize the social interdependencies of creative practice—political movements, urbanism, built environments, ecological context, science and technology, etc.— are encouraged to apply.

[Application details here](#)

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## Other News

### **African Critical Inquiry Programme 2025 ACIP Workshop: *We Need New Names: On Cultures of Care and Difficult Knowledge in African University Museums***

The African Critical Inquiry Programme (ACIP) is pleased to announce that the 2025 ACIP Workshop will be *We Need New Names: On Cultures of Care and Difficult Knowledge in African University Museums*, organised by Thozama April and Sinazo Mtshemla, both at The National Heritage and Cultural Studies Centre at Fort Hare University (NAHECS), and Sophia Olivia Sanan and Anell Stacey Daries, both at the Centre for the Afterlives of Violence and the Reparative Quest (AVReQ) at Stellenbosch University.

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### **Sasha Rai and Phindile Tabata receive 2024 Ivan Karp Doctoral Research Awards for their projects.**

The African Critical Inquiry Programme has named Sasha Rai and Phindile Tabata as recipients of the 2024 Ivan Karp Doctoral Research Awards. Rai, a South African student in the History Department, is working on her PhD at the University of the Witwatersrand. Tabata is also at the University of the Witwatersrand, a South African student in African Literature with a background in Publishing Studies. Support from ACIP's Ivan Karp Awards will allow each of them to do significant research for their dissertations. Rai will do archival work and interviews in Cape Town, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Durban and

Pietermaritzburg for her project, *What We Do in the Shadows: A History and Culture of Kink* in South Africa. Tabata will work in Gauteng province, interviewing authors, publishers, book sellers, book club members, and literary organisations for her project *Black Women's Self-published Literature and the Publishing Ecosystem in South Africa, 2010-2020*.

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**Join/Renew  
Membership**

**Submit Your  
Winter 2025 News**

**Support  
ACASA!**

With global membership, the Arts Council of the African Studies Association (ACASA) promotes greater understanding of African material and expressive culture in all its many forms, and encourages contact and collaboration with African and Diaspora artists and scholars.

ACASA is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.



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