



MUSEUM STAFF

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Director/Curator

Beverly Hancock
Curator of Education

Myrna Mackin
Administrative Assistant

Kim Robertson
Museum Educator

Anne Gilmore
Membership Secretary

Student Assistants
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Sarah Cucinella
Anna Sowle

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Mary Wright

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Ria Fulton
Carleigh High
Jay Spainhour
Gary Swain Jr.

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Wake Forest University
Museum of Anthropology
P.O. Box 7267
Winston-Salem, NC
27109-7267
(336) 758-5282 (phone)
(336) 758-5116 (fax)
<http://www.wfu.edu/MOA>
(Web)
moa@wfu.edu (e-mail)

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY Museum OF Anthropology

N E W S L E T T E R

Exhibits

by Beverly Hancock and Mary Jane Berman

KUNA MOLA: MAINTAINING TRADITION AMID CHANGE

Toured by Exhibits USA
September 7– November 21

Molas are a highly valued art form for both Kuna and non-Kuna. “Kuna Mola: Maintaining Tradition Amid Change” presents a view of traditional and contemporary Kuna life through a collection of molas, women’s dress and jewelry, photographs, and other items.

To non-Kuna, the visual expression of Kuna culture is most closely linked to the mola, the traditional blouse worn by Kuna women. The Kuna are one of seven Native American cultures living in Panama and are its most well-known ethnic group within and



1985.E.37 Mola panel with geometric design collected in 1920-1930. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. John Riefenberg.

outside of the country. Most Kuna live in Kuna Yala, an area consisting of a north-south strip of land bordering the Caribbean from Punta de San Blas to Puerto Obaldia, near the Columbian border and 50 small islands located within sight of land. Other Kuna have migrated to cities in the provinces of Panama and Colón or live near or on the banana plantations where they work. A few thousand Kuna live in northern Colombia.

The mola is a unique needlecraft tradition based on techniques of reverse appliqué. Each mola panel is hand sewn from two to seven layers of different colored cloth. Designs are often penciled on the cloth; then, layers of fabric

are carefully cut away to reveal intricate multicolored designs. Today, the term mola has come to mean the panels that make up the blouse or the panels that are sold as tourist crafts. Mola designs range from intricate geometric patterns reflecting Kuna perception of their natural and spiritual worlds to advertising logos, cartoon characters, and interpretations of local and international political events.

The exhibit uses the mola to explore how the Kuna have managed successfully to adhere to *continues on page 2*



1993.7.E.17 Cruise ships were common subjects for mola panels. This mola was collected c. 1916 by Thomas W. Gregory’s father, who worked as a bible salesman in Panama. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Gregory, in memory of Annie Mae Gregory.



1993.7.E.15 Kuna women often create images from the natural environment. c. 1916. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Gregory, in memory of Annie Mae Gregory, collected in Panama c. 1916.

VISIT THE MUSEUM HOME PAGE
<http://www.wfu.edu/MOA>

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e-mail: moa@wfu.edu
<http://www.wfu.edu/MOA>

EDITOR

Mary Jane Berman
Sarah Cucinella,
student co-editor

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Anne Gilmore
Beverly Hancock
Kim Robertson

LAYOUT AND EDITING

David Fyten,
*University Editor and
Assistant Vice President of
University Advancement*

PRINTER

Coleman Resources

MUSEUM HOURS

Tuesday-Saturday
10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Closed Sundays,
Mondays, July 4, Labor
Day, Thanksgiving,
New Year's Day, Good
Friday, and Memorial
Day, weekends
and Christmas Holiday
Intercession. Hours are
shortened during
academic recesses and
summer. Please call.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY SALE

November 27-
December 22
Community members
receive 10 percent
discount on purchases of
\$5 or more.

Exhibits

continued from page 1

traditional ways, while responding to the demands of modern life. The exhibit comes to us from Exhibits USA, from whom we have received some of our most enjoyed traveling exhibits. "Kuna Mola: Maintaining Tradition Amid Change" is curated by Joyce Cheney, an independent curator who has produced several popular touring exhibits. We will also exhibit several molas from our collections. Some of these were collected in the 1920s and 1930s and provide historical insight into today's innovations and changes in mola design. We are pleased that our new special exhibits gallery and improved security enable us to have touring exhibits that present objects, as well as photographs. A teacher packet will also be available.

On Saturday, September 29, we are holding a Mola Identification Day from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Dr. Mari Lyn Salvador of the University of New Mexico's Maxwell Museum of Anthropology will identify your mola and tell you more about when it was made and the meaning of its designs. You will be able to share your mola's history, by telling us about how and when you or a family member collected it. Children will be able to make their own paper molas with Kim Robertson, our educator, who will hold a children's mola workshop at the same time.



The area on Panama's northeast coast designated here as San Blas is known today as Kuna Yala.

understanding of tourists' perceptions of Kuna art has influenced the creation of new designs and a return to traditional ones. She will present findings from her ethnographic research among both Kuna women and American tourists. Dr. Salvador, an internationally known scholar, has lived among and studied the Kuna for 25 years and is the author of numerous books and articles pertaining to their culture. Most recently she curated "The Art of Being Kuna: Layers of Meaning Among the Kuna of Panama" at UCLA's Fowler Museum of Cultural History's and the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian. She also edited its exquisitely written and illustrated catalogue of the same name that will be on sale in our Shop during the exhibit. Dr. Salvador has agreed to autograph copies of her book.

For more information about the exhibit and these special programs, please call 758-5282 or visit our Web site at <http://www.wfu.edu/MOA>.

LOS DIAS DE LOS MUERTOS (DAYS OF THE DEAD)

Our newly re-installed exhibit, *Marvelous Things*, looks at how today's Mexican folk artists unite and blend pre-Hispanic and contemporary beliefs, technologies, and artistic expressions to create clothing, ceramics, jewelry, and other crafts. A portion of the exhibit is devoted solely to "Los Dias de los Muertos" ("Days of the Dead"), the most important observance in the yearly cycle of Mexican festivals and saints' days that is celebrated on October 31, November 1 (All Saints Day) and November 2 (All Souls Day).

In commemoration of Los Dias de los Muertos, the Museum will construct an ofrenda (shrine) on October 1 - November 1. Our ofrenda will be similar to those found throughout Mexican homes during this time. On November 1, a guest speaker will share recollections of past Day of the Dead celebrations with us.

GALLERIES GET A NEW LOOK

The final third of our three-year renovation project was completed this summer. We now have three new, distinct galleries, one of which we have been enjoying as our special exhibits gallery. Over the summer we created a gallery devoted entirely to the cultures of Africa by moving the existing Africa exhibits into their new home. In early fall we will be installing an exhibit on Japan, tentatively titled "Creating a National Identity." Guest-curated by Dr. Joanne Izbecki of Yale University, it contains many artifacts never before exhibited at the Museum, including kimono, haori, zori, and "happy coats". (If you don't know what a "happy coat" is—all the more reason to see the new exhibit!) We also appreciate the help of Dr. David Phillips of East Asian Languages, who has advised us through the years on various aspects of Japanese culture, and Dr. Ulrike Wiethaus of the Interdisciplinary Program in Humanities, who purchased various contemporary items used in the exhibit while directing the University's Tokai Program.

Our Native American gallery will also have a new look. We have opened an entry from this area directly into our newest gallery. Since we have created new spaces by changing old ones, it will take several months for us to reinstall or develop new long term exhibits to fill those spaces. We appreciate your patience during this period and invite you to visit us from time to time this year to see what we are accomplishing with our improved space. ▲

Summer Fun

During the summer, campers had the opportunity to explore the traditions of various African cultures. Campers learned that dolls are not just objects of play in many African cultures, but are one means by which children are socialized to be adults in their culture. Our campers made akuaba dolls and learned about Asante beliefs and traditions. The campers also learned about African music. Students made thumb pianos (mbiras) modeled on the ones made by the Shona people of Zimbabwe. Campers also learned about fractals and their long history in African design.

After school programs

Back by popular demand, we are reinstating our After School programs for children who are in grades 1-5. "Exploring World Cultures" will be held from 4:15 to 5:30 p.m. during alternate Mondays in September and October. Students can register for the whole series (\$32.00-Museum Friends, \$35.00 -community members) or for individual sessions (\$12.00-Museum Friends, \$15.00-community members). Students will explore the customs and beliefs that make up cultures from faraway places. Please register by calling 758-5282.

SEPTEMBER 10—"Growing up Masai." Students will learn about becoming an adult in Masai culture. Activities include making a Masai design shield and playing a traditional Masai game. The Masai, who live in eastern Kenya, make their traditional living by herding cattle. They are a nomadic people.

SEPTEMBER 24—"Magnificent Molas." Participants will look at "Kuna Mola: Maintaining Tradition Amid Change" and learn about the Kuna people of Kuna Yala, Panama. They will make a paper mola, based on the designs that Kuna women use today.



Mola artist Brisida Gonzalez, Rio Sidro, 1997. Photo © Barbara Drake Blevens.

OCTOBER 8—"Lots of Dots." Children will learn how Australian Aborigines record their ancient stories through "dot" paintings on rock walls, sand paintings, and other surfaces. Using Aboriginal symbols, they will make a coolamon (an all purpose tray) and decorate it with dots.

OCTOBER 22—"The Gift of Fire." Our Museum Educator will tell stories about how

Native Americans learned to make and keep fire for cooking, warmth, clearing fields, making objects, and storytelling. They will make and use a fire drill. ▲

News & Notes

Mary Jane Berman was appointed to the editorial advisory committee of *Museum Anthropology*, the Council for Museum Anthropology's quarterly journal. In April, Mary Jane presented a paper in New Orleans at the Society for Archaeology's annual meeting entitled "Shamanism, Ritual, and Basketry Production in the Prehistoric Caribbean", co-authored with WFU graduate student, Charlene Hutcheson.

Earlier this year Beverly Hancock, Curator of Education, traveled to London where she visited numerous museums, including the British Museum on the opening of its new Africa exhibit.

Beverly has been coordinating and overseeing the Museum's third set of exhibit renovations and reinstallations.

Myrna Mackin, the Museum's administrative assistant traveled to Italy in April and May and visited several museums. She has also been attending the monthly meetings of the Forsyth County Tourist Development Authority. Myrna continues to be the Association of Visitor Attractions (AVA) treasurer.



"Snail's Path," 1998, mola by Marianna de la Ossa. From the exhibition "Kuna Mola: Maintaining Tradition Amid Change, toured by Exhibits USA and on display at the Museum September 7-November 21.

As part of our outreach efforts, Museum Educator Kim Robertson presented young people's programs throughout the county and neighboring areas during the spring and summer. In May she went to Surry County Community College where she participated in a special fourth grade education day on North Carolina history and archaeology. Kim also presented programs at our area's local branch libraries: Walkertown, Thruway, Reynolda, and Rural Hall.

Throughout the spring and early summer, Membership Secretary Anne Gilmore worked closely with our camp program.

We welcome our new student assistant, Sarah Cucinella, who is also serving as student Newsletter co-editor. Sarah is an anthropology major from Greensboro, North Carolina. Over the summer, Sarah is serving as a curation assistant, lending a hand in our exhibit re-installations, and learning the basics of museum operation.

We are proud of our former student assistants who have moved on to exciting and challenging projects. Among this year's graduates, curation assistant Morgan Edwards will be attending George Washington University, where she will start classes in museum anthropology in the fall. Former student newsletter co-editor Lisel Shorb will also attend George Washington University, where she will study cultural anthropology, hoping to focus primarily on the anthropology of tourism. Brian Bilheimer, also a 2001 graduate, will be entering law school at Rutgers in the fall. Jennifer Lavender (2000) recently accepted a position at the Chicago Athenaeum, a museum of architecture and design established in 1988 whose mission is the "advancement of public education about the value of Good

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Volunteer News

Anne Gilmore, *Membership Secretary*

OUR JUNIOR volunteers, Gary Swaim, Jr., Emma McCullough, Carleigh High, Ria Fulton, and Nicholas Frazier, did a terrific job assisting our young campers during June. The Museum is happy to have these talented young people as members of our volunteer team. We also thank long-time adult volunteer, Wilma Smiley who continued to prove her service as a loyal Museum volunteer by helping with the camps.

Many, many thanks to volunteer, Tony Layng who helped us with a variety of projects. Tony's interests and talents are exhaustive: he recently published "Understanding Contemporary Indian Art" in *American Indian Review* when he wasn't busy helping us assisting in the installation of the "Transformations" exhibit and the new Africa gallery or perfecting his backhand on the tennis court. Tony also built the "New Acquisitions" case currently exhibiting a Huichol shaman's outfit.

Katie Shugart, our official volunteer webmistress continues to update and revise our website. Thanks to Katie's computer knowledge and skills, you can visit us at: <http://www.wfu.edu/MOA>. Thanks, also to Robert Vidrine, Anthropology and Education Academic Computing Specialist whose help with the website has been invaluable. While on a recent trip to Hawaii this spring, Katie visited the Bishop Museum, the Polynesian cultural center, and several other natural history, cultural, and historic sites.

Junior volunteer Gary Swaim Jr., made the honor roll at Ledford Middle School and long time community student volunteer, Amanda Calhoun, had been accepted into the nursing program at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

A big, big thank you to all Friends of the Museum who renewed their memberships. You have helped us reach and surpass our goal for the fiscal year 2000-2001. We genuinely appreciate your support.

This coming year is already filled with exciting lectures, exhibits, and receptions. If you would like to assist with any of these upcoming events, please call the Museum at 758-5282. Please note that our Friends Holiday Dinner will be held on Tuesday, December 4, 2001, at 6:30 p.m. Check the Museum calendar for dates and times for our other events.

Shop News

Sarah Cucinella, *Student Co-Editor*

THE ANNUAL SPRING graduation sale wrapped up on May 21. By giving the Wake Forest community a 20% discount and Museum Friends a 35% discount, we were able to clear out some merchandise to make way for the next year's items. During the fall, Myrna Mackin will be attending trade shows sponsored by the Museum Stores Association to look for new vendors and items. During the "Kuna Mola: Maintaining Tradition Amid Change" exhibit, we will be carrying molas and mola ornaments (such as stuffed animals and tree ornaments) made by women of the Cooperativa Productores de Molas of Kuna Yala. We will also carry a limited number of Mari Lyn Salvador's book, "The Art of Being Kuna: Layers of Meaning Among the Kuna of Panama."

Due to popular demand, the Shop has restocked its supply of miniature Mata Ortiz pots from Chihuahua, Mexico. Highly valued by collectors, each pot is signed by a well-known potter including Baudel Lopez, Marta Poace, Julio Mora, Carmen Veloz, and Suzy Martinez. The Shop also features unique African folk crafts such as baskets made from telephone wire by the Zulu people of South Africa, "kisi stone" (soapstone) figurines and hand-modeled clay banks in the shape of fanciful animals from Kenya, and masks, from Côte d'Ivoire and Mali. We always have a wide variety of earrings, necklaces, bracelets, and rings containing amethyst, opal, lapis lazuli, rose quartz, amber, and other semi-precious stones from Africa and Asia.

The Shop also carries merchandise with the Museum's unique logo: t-shirts, tote bags, mugs, and baseball caps and a wide variety of small children's toys and party favors. Packets of note cards featuring objects from the Museum's collections are also available for purchase. If there is a particular item you would like to see the Shop carry, please let Myrna know, by calling her at 758-5282 or e-mailing her at moa@wfu.edu. ▲

News & Notes

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Design—from the spoon to the city." Jennifer is in charge of "Gallery 54", an educational summer program. In a few months, she hopes to begin curation work. Jennifer said her years working in the Museum as one of our exhibit assistants is serving her well in her new position. You can learn more about Jennifer's museum and the programs she has developed by accessing the Athenaeum's website: <http://www.chi-athenaeum.org/about.htm>.

Student assistant Anna Sowle is excited to be a part of the Department of Anthropology's Chiapas program traveling to Mexico later this summer. Both she and Sarah Clawson are helping us with the summer's varied projects. Before leaving for Mexico, Anna helped Beverlye with the installation of the new Africa exhibit. In June, Sarah compiled the results of an exhibit evaluation (thanks to everyone who filled it out!), took care of our reception desk while Myrna attended several training sessions, and also assisted in the busy work of renovation.

Earlier this summer, a group of Wake Forest University, Elon University and Barton College education faculty sipped wine and cheese, shared relaxed conversation, and toured our exhibits, while taking time off from a Wake Forest University-sponsored Teachers and Technology Institute workshop. If you are interested in holding an event here at the Museum, please contact Myrna Mackin at 758-5282 for our reception use policies. ▲

Miniature pot from Mata Ortiz, Chihuahua, Mexico, made by master potter Julio Mora.



Museum awarded self-study grant; asks members' participation in survey

Thanks to a grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), Wake Forest University's Museum of Anthropology has received a Museum Assessment Program I (MAP) grant. The grant, which is designed to help museums assess their strengths and weaknesses for long-range planning, will be used by the Museum to conduct a self-study of its programs and operations. The Museum is one of 110 institutions nationwide to receive a MAP grant this year.

IMLS, a federal granting agency located in Washington, D.C., is dedicated to helping the nation's museums and libraries improve their services by fostering leadership, innovation, and lifetime learning. Edward H. Able, Jr., President and CEO of the American Association of Museums, notes, "MAP is a unique process that

helps museums reach their full potential. MAP helps museums meet the heightened expectations of the public and more effectively fulfill their missions as educational institutions."

As part of the IMLS-supported MAP self-study, we have put together a brief questionnaire that will help us learn more about what you would like to see the Museum offer in the future. We ask that you take a few minutes of your time and respond to the enclosed questions and return them to us in the self-addressed envelope that we have also included in the Newsletter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 758-5827 or email me: berman@wfu.edu. We appreciate your support and want to be certain that we do an even better one in serving you!—Mary Jane Berman, *Director*

Join *the* Friends *of the* Museum of Anthropology

Membership Benefits and Categories

Student Membership \$5

Individual Membership \$15

Senior Citizen Membership \$12

Invitations to previews of exhibits, openings, reduced rates for field trips, lecture series, classes and other special events, 10 percent discount on purchases from the Museum Shop, 20 percent discount on purchases from the Museum Shop during sales.

Teacher Membership \$15

All of the above, AND a 10 percent discount for class programs.

Family Membership \$20-49

All of the above, AND reduced rates for your children for after-school and summer programs.

Supporting Membership \$50-99

All of the above, AND Museum Shop notecards, mug or Museum logo baseball cap.

Patron Membership \$100 and above

All of the above, AND a Museum logo T-shirt or Museum catalogue.

(Circle shirt size: S M L XL)

_____ Student \$5

_____ Individual \$15

_____ Senior \$12

_____ Teacher \$15

_____ Family \$20-49

_____ Supporting \$50-99

_____ Patron \$100 and above

_____ I do not wish to receive
any premiums.

Matching Gifts

Are you or your spouse employed by a matching gift company? Many companies and law firms will match your gift. Please obtain the proper form from your employer and return it to us with your gift. THANKS!

Please make checks payable to the Museum of Anthropology, Wake Forest University, P.O. Box 7267 Reynolda Station, Winston-Salem, NC 27109-7267. Memberships are tax-deductible.

Name _____

Phone () _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____

ZIP _____

E-mail: _____

My gift will be matched by _____
and forms are enclosed. (*Corporate matching gift of spouse may also qualify.*)

_____ New _____ Renewal _____ Cash _____ Check

For more information, call (336) 758-5282 or e-mail
moa@wfu.edu

Museum Calendar

AUGUST

1-20

Weekday hours Tuesday-Friday
10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Closed Monday-Saturday

21

Resume normal hours.
Tuesday-Saturday
10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

1

Labor Day
Closed

7- November 21

"Kuna Mola: Maintaining Tradition Among Change"
Toured by Exhibits USA

10

**Exploring World Cultures After School Program
"Growing Up Masai"**
Children will learn about becoming an adult in traditional Masai society.
4:15 – 5:30 p.m.
To register for the After School Program series, please call 758-5282.
See Education Department News for details.

24

**Exploring World Cultures After School Program
"Magnificent Molas"**
Children will learn about Kuna culture and the mola tradition.
4:15 – 5:30 p.m.
To register for the After School Program series, please call 758-5282.
See Education Department News for details.

29

Mola Identification Day
Bring your molas to the Museum. Learn more about them from curator, Dr. Mari Lyn Salvador of the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology.
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Children can make their own molas with Museum Educator Kim Robertson.
10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

30

Lecture and Reception
Dr. Mari Lyn Salvador from the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology (University of New Mexico) will speak on "Crustaceans and Cruise Ships: Tourist Art from Kuna Women's Perspective"
2:30 p.m.
Please call 758-5282 for reservations.

OCTOBER

1

Los Dias de Los Muertos (Days of the Dead) Ofrenda

8

Exploring World Cultures After School Program: "Lots of Dots"
Children will learn about Australian Aborigine culture.
4:15 – 5:30 p.m.
To register for the After School Program series, please call 758-5282.
See Education Department News for details.

17-19

Closed for Staff Development

22

Exploring World Cultures After School Program: "The Gift of Fire"
Children will learn how Native Americans use natural materials to make fire.
4:15 – 5:30 p.m.
To register for the After School Program series, please call 758-5282.
See Education Department News for details.



1993.7.E.16 Animal images and designs resembling the moon and stars are commonly featured in mola panels. The animal in the center looks like a moli (tapir), the largest Neotropical animal. c. 1916. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Gregory, in memory of Annie Mae Gregory.

WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY

Museum of Anthropology
P.O. Box 7267 REYNOLDA STATION
WINSTON-SALEM, NC 27109-7267

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