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BMA PRESENTS DESIGN FOR MOBILE LIVING: ART FROM EASTERN AFRICA

Exhibition highlights artworks worn or associated with the body

BALTIMORE, MD (June 29, 2016)—The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) explores the ways in which nomadic life shapes creativity and artistic form. On view now through November 27, *Design for Mobile Living: Art from Eastern Africa* presents 28 visually striking works, including examples of necklaces, bracelets, shields, fertility dolls, and vessels. Many never before on view, the objects were created by 19th and 20th century artists who lived in cattle herding groups from the Great Rift Valley to the horn of the African continent. Light-weight, portable objects showcase how in mobile societies body ornamentation becomes art. Kalenjin, Maasai, Samburu, Somali, and Turkana artists are represented.



"Few art museums have prioritized the collection and display of art from Eastern Africa," said Kevin Terval, Curatorial Fellow for the Arts of Africa, the Americas, Asia & the Pacific Islands. "The BMA is proud to feature these works so that visitors can appreciate the artistic sensibilities of historic societies markedly different from our own."

Organized by Kevin Terval, Curatorial Fellow for the Arts of Africa, the Americas, Asia & the Pacific Islands, with Associate Curator for African Arts Shannen Hill.

This exhibition is generously sponsored by Amy L. Gould and Matthew S. Polk, Jr.

AFRICAN ART COLLECTION

The BMA has one of the earliest and most important collections of African art in the United States with more than 2,000 objects spanning from ancient Egypt to contemporary Zimbabwe. A major gift from the collection of Janet and Alan Wurtzburger in 1954 marked the beginning of a permanent display of African art at the BMA and assured a significant place for African art within the Museum's growing collection. More than 200 African cultures are represented in the collection. Diverse in medium, works range from paintings and headdresses to masks, figures, staffs, textiles, jewelry, ceremonial weapons, and pottery. Several pieces are internationally known as the best of their type.

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THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART

The Baltimore Museum of Art is home to an internationally renowned collection of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. Founded in 1914 with a single painting, the BMA today has 95,000 works of art—including the largest public holding of works by Henri Matisse outside France. Throughout the museum, visitors will find an outstanding selection of American and European painting, sculpture, and decorative arts; works by established and emerging contemporary artists; Asian art with a strength in Chinese ceramics; and an exceptional collection of objects from Africa. The BMA's galleries also showcase examples from one of the nation's finest collections of prints, drawings, and photographs and exquisite textiles from around the world. The 210,000-square-foot museum is distinguished by a grand historic building designed in the 1920s by renowned American architect John Russell Pope and two beautifully landscaped sculpture gardens that is an oasis in the city. Since 2006, the BMA has provided free general admission so that everyone can enjoy the power of art.

VISITOR INFORMATION

General admission to the BMA is free. Special exhibitions may be ticketed. The BMA is open Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.–6 p.m. The museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year's Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The BMA is located at 10 Art Museum Drive, three miles north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For general museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit artbma.org.

Image

Artist unidentified. Man's Belt (Enkeene Pus).

Maasai region, Loita section, Tanzania. Mid-20th century.

The Baltimore Museum of Art: Gift of Nancy and Robert H. Nooter,
Washington, D.C., BMA 1994.293

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