



HIGH MUSEUM OF ART ATLANTA

1280 PEACHTREE STREET, N.E. • ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30309

FACT SHEET

Paa Joe: Gates of No Return

February 29 – May 31, 2020

Fast Facts

- *Paa Joe: Gates of No Return* features seven large-scale, painted wood architectural sculptures from Ghanaian artist and master craftsman Joseph Tetteh Ashong, also known as Paa Joe.
- The sculptures are crafted in the style of Paa Joe's celebrated fantasy coffins and represent Gold Coast fortresses, which served as way stations for millions of Africans sold into slavery between the 16th and 19th centuries.
- The seven works selected for the exhibition are among a group of 13 models that were commissioned from Paa Joe in 2004 and 2005 by the late artist, collector and art dealer Claude Simard.
- The fortresses represented in the exhibition are Christiansborg Castle, Fort Patience, Cape Coast Castle, Fort St. Sebastian, Fort Orange, Fort Gross-Friedrichsburg and Fort St. Anthony
- The exhibition also features archival documents and recordings that provide context for the artist's creative process and give points of entry into the history of these charged sites, including photographs and short films.
- As the first venue in the South to present the exhibition, the High is using related programming and in-gallery information to connect Paa Joe's sculptures with the region's history of slavery.
- This exhibition is organized by the American Folk Art Museum.
- Katherine Jentleson is the presenting curator for the High.

Exhibition Organization and Support

“Paa Joe: Gates of No Return” is organized by the American Folk Art Museum, New York, and its Curator of Self-Taught Art and Art Brut Valérie Rousseau. This exhibition is made possible by Premier Exhibition Series Sponsor Delta Airlines, Inc. and Invesco; Exhibition Series Sponsors Northside Hospital and WarnerMedia; Premier Exhibition Series Supporters the Antinori Foundation, Sarah and Jim Kennedy, Louise Sams and Jerome Grilhot, and wish foundation; Benefactor Exhibition Series Supporter Anne Cox Chambers Foundation; Ambassador Exhibition Series Supporters Tom and Susan Wardell, and Rod Westmoreland; and Contributing Exhibition Series Supporters Lucinda W. Bunnan, Marcia and John Donnell, W. Daniel Ebersole and Sarah Eby-Ebersole, Peggy Foreman, Robin and Hilton Howell, Mr. and Mrs. Baxter Jones, Margot and Danny McCaul, Joel Knox and Joan Marmo, Elizabeth and Chris Willett, and The Ron and Lisa Brill Family Charitable Trust. Generous support is also provided by the Alfred and Adele Davis Exhibition Endowment Fund, Anne Cox Chambers Exhibition Fund, Barbara Stewart Exhibition Fund, Dorothy Smith Hopkins Exhibition Endowment Fund, Eleanor McDonald Storza Exhibition Endowment Fund, The Fay and Barrett Howell Exhibition Fund, Forward Arts Foundation Exhibition Endowment Fund, Helen S. Lanier Endowment Fund, Isobel Anne Fraser–Nancy Fraser Parker Exhibition Endowment Fund, John H. and Wilhelmina D. Harland Exhibition Endowment Fund, Katherine Murphy Riley Special Exhibition Endowment Fund, Margareta Taylor Exhibition Fund, and the RJR Nabisco Exhibition Endowment Fund.