

For immediate release
September, 2024



EXPLORING THE LANGUAGE OF FORM & WUNDERKAMMER II: ANIMALIA

Two New Queens College Exhibitions, *Exploring the Language of Form* and *WUNDERKAMMER II: Animalia*, Explore Global Culture through Godwin-Ternbach Museum's Expansive Collections, October 17 - December 19, 2024 and October 17, 2024 - May 29, 2025 respectively



The first of two new exhibitions, *Exploring the Language of Form* reveals the breadth and vitality of artistic expression in a truly global exhibition.

September 30, 2024, Flushing, NY — A new exhibition at Godwin-Ternbach Museum (GTM) at Queens College (CUNY), *Exploring the Language of Form*, features over one hundred outstanding sculptural art works and artifacts spanning 5,000 years of human experience. The first exhibition of its kind at GTM to focus solely on the 3-dimensional form in all media includes works in ceramic, wood, metal, ivory and bone, glass, stone and paper, reveals many for the first time. Diverse objects of spiritual or religious significance are presented alongside purely utilitarian objects, merging disparate time periods and global locations. From intensely personal miniature objects such as amulets or netsuke to robust sculptural statements, variations in scale and materiality stretch the boundaries of what a 3-dimensional expression can be. And as viewers, we are constantly challenged and educated by examining a plethora of approaches to the creative act in works that inspire wonder.



(from the left) Japanese figure of a standing Daruma, Acoma Pueblo Olla vessel, Effigy Censer, Roy Lichtenstein Untitled, Isidoro Cruz y Familia Untitled (devil mask)

Earliest works in the exhibition include Funerary Head, Syria-Palmyra, c. 1365-200 BC and a Canopic Jar, Egyptian, Middle Kingdom, 2060-1786 BC. Medieval to Renaissance objects include the Italian Reliquary Arm of a Saint, Late Gothic, 15th century, a Flemish Reliquary Bust, early 16th century, and Madonna and Child with St. John the Baptist attributed to Girolamo Lombardo, circa 1560. Some modern and 20th century works by Chaim Gross, Jean Dunand, and Louise Nevelson, and contemporary works by Carlo Scarpa, John Norwood, Pat Lasch, Roy Lichtenstein, Robert Wilson, Arthur Gonzalez, Lawrence Fane, Marcus Manganni, and Claudia DeMonte, reflect other works by anonymous artisans and makers, folk and outsider artists.

Masks are a truly global cultural phenomenon. A special section of the exhibition features 16 masks from the collection including examples from Southern India; New Guinea; Guerrero, Mexico; Greece, Senegal, Mali, and Congo in Africa; Japan; and the United States. Two contemporary examples from this country were created by folk/outsider artist, "Bob" Robert Justin (American, 1941-2015) and one 19th century mask constructed of painted wire mesh was probably used in lodge rituals of fraternal organizations such as the Odd Fellows. The centerpiece of this installation is a Kono

society mask from Western Sudan, where secret societies comprised of the men in the Bambara tribe, oversaw the typical functioning of village life as well as concerns of a religious nature including circumcision rites. The physical presence and scale of this mask ensures that viewers are moved by the spiritual powers it is imbued with.

In GTM's Lobby Gallery, *WUNDERKAMMER II: Animalia*, reveals a cross-cultural selection of works representing the animal world in a variety of media. Designed as visual storage to reveal long hidden treasures, this rich selection of works demonstrates the infinite variety of the museum's holdings. Mostly created by anonymous or unnamed artisans, an Ivory Coast, Senufo hornbill headdress portraying a stylized human face on its abdomen or a Shaman's rattle depicting both a human figure and a raven evoke the interconnectedness of human life with the animal spirit.



(from the left) Chinese Tiger Funerary Pillow, Chinese Lion Amulet, Owl, Bull-Shaped Rhyton (Drinking Horn), and Double Stag (Male Red Roe Deer) Figurines.

About the Godwin-Ternbach Museum



(left) Dr. Frances Gray Godwin, 1908-1979 | Photo courtesy Edward O'Donnell



(right) Joseph Ternbach, 1897-1982 | photo courtesy Godwin-Ternbach Museum

GTM is unique among museums in Queens as this world class institution focuses on exposing the breadth of its 7,000-object collection, beginning with ancient archeological works to modern and contemporary art, and everything in between. GTM was founded in 1981 though the art collections at Queens College date from the year of its founding in 1937. In the museum's collection, cultures of Asia, Africa, Egypt, Greece and Rome, South Pacific and India, as well as European (Medieval and Renaissance), Pre-Columbian, and the Americas, are represented.

The Museum has a distinguished history due to its founders. Frances Godwin and Joseph Ternbach. Frances Godwin, a beloved art history professor at Queens College whose academic focus was early and Medieval Christian art, was the one to spearhead use of the collection as a teaching tool and to create hands on experiences for students to view, touch, and learn from the wonderful range of objects in the collection. Joseph Ternbach was a noted art restorer who settled in Queens after escape from Nazi persecution in Vienna, attracted eminent donors like Norbert Schimmel, Jack and Belle Linsky, and Charles Bolles Rogers, who were patrons of the Metropolitan Museum, National Gallery of Art, and Smithsonian Institution; Leon Pomerance, Ernest Erickson and Syril and Walter Frank of the Archeological Institute of America; Hans Arnhold, founder of the American Academy in Berlin; co-founder of the WPA Federal Arts Project and New York Regional Director Audrey McMahan, and of course, works from the private collections of the founders themselves. Later important donors include the Lannan Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation, Allen Rosenbaum, Claudia DeMonte and Ed McGowin, Drs. John Hunter and Harold D. Kooden, and Estate of Rose Choron, among others.

The exhibition is organized by Louise Weinberg, GTM's co-director, director of exhibitions and collections, and curator.

Education and public programs in conjunction with the exhibition are planned and are open to the Queens College community and the public. Visit www.gtmuseum.org for information. All programs are free.

A public opening reception will take place on Thursday, October 17th, from 6 pm to 8 pm at Godwin-Ternbach Museum. To RSVP, please email gtmuseum@qc.cuny.edu. Light refreshments will be served.

Support for the exhibitions is provided by the Friends of the Godwin-Ternbach Museum, Kupferberg Center for the Arts, and Queens College, CUNY. Education programs and initiatives are supported in part by the Milton & Sally Avery Arts Foundation, and public funds from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with NY City Council. Additional support for the care of the collection is made possible by the Pine Tree Foundation.

For information on campus entry, please email gtmuseum@qc.cuny.edu.
Visit www.gtmuseum.org for museum hours, location, and directions to campus.



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