

The Getty Research Institute presents:

ANNUAL LECTURE

Project for the Study of
Collecting and Provenance

Collecting African American Art in the 21st Century

Lecturer: Alvia J. Wardlaw

Tuesday, February 17, 2009
4:00–5:15 p.m., reception to follow

Getty Research Institute Lecture Hall, The Getty Center



Alvia J. Wardlaw, 2005. Photo: Earlie Hudnall Jr.



Henry Ossawa Tanner, *Flight into Egypt*, 1921. The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Gift of Mrs. Evan W. Burris



Mequitta Ahuja, *Off the Edge*, 2008. The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Museum purchase with funds provided by the African American Art Advisory Association. © Mequitta Ahuja

Lecture

The twenty-first century has ushered in a new and dynamic period in the history of collecting African American art, influenced by experimental media, expanding technology, and the rise of the celebrity collector. In this fifth annual lecture of the Project for the Study of Collecting and Provenance (PSCP), Alvia Wardlaw, distinguished art historian and curator, explores these new developments as well as the impact of young artists, new collectors, and institution building. Beginning with the earliest evidence of collecting African American material culture and art, she analyzes the role of historically black colleges and universities in its preservation. She profiles pioneering collectors, including black-owned businesses and prominent individuals who created the foundation of today's collecting.

Alvia J. Wardlaw is professor of art history and director/curator of the University Museum at Texas Southern University. She also continues as curator of modern and contemporary art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, through 2009. Wardlaw has curated numerous exhibitions at the Museum of Fine Arts, including *The Quilts of Gee's Bend* (2002), which received the AICA Critics Award from the International Association of Art Critics/USA (2003), and *The Art of John Biggers: View from the Upper Room* (1995). One of her notable publications is *Charles Alston* (2006), from the David Driskell series of African American Art. Wardlaw was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame in 1994.

Admission to this event is free. To attend, please make a reservation by visiting www.getty.edu or calling (310) 440-7300. Note, late arrivals cannot be guaranteed seating. Parking is free with a reservation, or \$10.00 per car.

The Getty Research Institute (GRI) is a program of the J. Paul Getty Trust. Other programs of the Trust include the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI), and the Getty Foundation.



The Getty Research Institute

1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 1100
Los Angeles, CA 90049-1688
Tel 310 440 7335
www.getty.edu