Striking Iron
The Art of African Blacksmiths
JUNE 3 – DECEMBER 30, 2018

Marla C. Berns,
Shirley & Ralph Shapiro Director of the Fowler
invites you to our opening weekend events

Saturday, June 2
6–7 PM
Opening Lecture with curator Tom Joyce
Fowler members priority seating at 5:45 PM.
7–9 PM
Opening Party with Mbira Performance
RSVP by May 25
fowlerRSVP@arts.ucla.edu
310-206-7001

Sunday, June 3
1 PM
Gallery Tour with exhibition curators
1–4 PM
Drop-in Family Program:
Sculpting, Molding, Forging

Fowler MUSEUM AT UCLA
Striking Iron combines objects of extraordinary beauty with cutting-edge scholarship to offer the most comprehensive presentation of the blacksmith’s art in Africa to date. The exhibition will feature over 225 artworks from across the continent, focusing on the region south of the Sahara. Among the works drawn from the Fowler’s collection and borrowed from U.S. and European public and private collections are stunning wood sculptures studded with iron, prestige blades and currencies in a myriad of shapes and sizes, diverse musical instruments, elaborate body adornments, and an array of ritual accoutrements.

Striking Iron: The Art of African Blacksmiths is organized by the Fowler Museum at UCLA. The curatorial team is led by artist Tom Joyce, a MacArthur Fellow originally trained as a blacksmith, with co-curators Allen F. Roberts, UCLA Professor of World Arts and Cultures/Dance; Marla C. Berns, Shirley & Ralph Shapiro Director, Fowler Museum; William J. Dewey, Director, African Studies Program and Associate Professor of African Art History at Pennsylvania State University; and Henry J. Drewal, Evjue-Bascom Professor of Art History and Afro-American Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The exhibition is made possible by major funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities* and in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. Lead support is provided by the Carl & Marilyn Thoma Art Foundation and The Martha and Avrum Bluming Exhibition Fund. Additional funding comes from the Ahmanson Foundation on the recommendation of the late Foundation Trustee Emeritus, Lloyd E. Cotsen, The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, the Fowler Exhibition Fund, Cindy Miscikowski, the Ethnic Arts Council of Los Angeles, Lee Bronson, Andrew Adelson, Richard Scheller and Susan McConnell, and Richard and Susan Ulevitch.

*Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this article, book, exhibition, film, program, database, report, Web resource, do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.