



Brides of Anansi: Fiber and Contemporary Art

September 4 – December 6, 2014

#anansi

SPELMAN COLLEGE MUSEUM OF FINE ART



Saya Woolfalk, *Aerial Display (Blossoming)*, 2012. Mixed media installation, mannequins, fleece, wool, felt, plastic beads, plastic bones, feathers, abaca paper, glitter shoes, and spandex. 20 x 9 x 2 feet. Courtesy the artist



Adejoke Tugbiyele, *Water Go Find Enemy*, 2013. Perforated metal (drains), palm stems, copper wire, and permanently colored brass wire. 75 x 100 x 35 centimeters. Courtesy the artist

Brides of Anansi: Fiber and Contemporary Art September 4 – December 6, 2014

Brides of Anansi: Fiber and Contemporary Art features work by artists who spin, weave, twist, manipulate, and loop fibers and other materials such as paper, glass, and metal to create inventive works. Featured artists include: Xenobia Bailey, Sonya Clark, Januwa Moja, Senga Nengudi, Nnenna Okore, Joyce J. Scott, Adejoke Tugbiyele, and Saya Woolfalk.

This original exhibition curated by **Lowery Stokes Sims, Ph.D.**, Chief Curator, Museum of Arts and Design in New York, and **Leslie King-Hammond, Ph.D.**, Professor Emeritus, Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, explores the artists' work through the extraordinary and ancient lens of Anansi, the Ghanaian folk hero and spider-man, who is the central character in countless fables. By weaving complex silken webs, he imparts wisdom and solves societal problems.

Exhibition Checklist



Xenobia Bailey, *Paradise Under Reconstruction in the Aesthetic of Funk: Re-Possessed*, 2000–2014. Multimedia installation including single stitch crochet, 4 ply cotton and acrylic yarn, plastic pony beads, rhinestone, button, and cowry shells. Dimensions variable. Courtesy the artist. Photo by Ajith Gopinathan

Xenobia Bailey (b. 1955)

Paradise Under Reconstruction in the Aesthetic of Funk: Re-Possessed, 2000–2014

Multimedia installation including single stitch crochet, 4 ply cotton and acrylic yarn, plastic pony beads, rhinestone, button, and cowry shells
Dimensions variable

Courtesy the artist

Sonya Clark (b. 1967)

Aqua Allure, 2005

Comb, thread, and foil

8 feet x 4 feet x 1 inch

Courtesy the artist

3/5ths, 2010

Shirt and thread

30 x 21 x 3 inches

Courtesy the artist

Rooted and Uprooted, 2011

Thread and canvas

10 x 35 x 10 inches

Courtesy the artist

Januwa Moja (b. 1946)

Cosmic Rainbow, 1992/1994

Coat: off-loomed woven and crochet of various yarns; Dress: crochet of various yarns

coat: 54 x 52 inches, dress: 16 x 55 inches

Courtesy the artist

Egungun Boa, 1985

Knotted various fabrics on net background

6 x 64 inches

Courtesy the artist

Egungun Boa #2, 1985

Knotted various fabrics on net background

4 x 74 inches

Courtesy the artist

Egungun Boa #3, 1985

Knotted various fabrics on net background

3 x 64 inches

Courtesy the artist

Egungun Boa #4, 1985

Knotted various fabrics on net background

12 x 24 inches

Courtesy the artist

Queen of Spades, 1996

Mixed African print fabrics with metallic ribbon; Accessory 1: Oya necklace of bone, antler, shells, and beads. Accessory 2: Headdress, variety of feathers on mixed fabrics. Accessory 3: Brass and glass beads with cowrie shells

20 x 60 inches

Courtesy the artist

Ode to Sun Ra - Celestial Space Crown for the 21st Century, 2012

Beads, glass, found objects, and 1 real uncut diamond on wire screen with leather

28 x 12 inches

Courtesy the artist

Crown of Thorns for the Visionary, 1997

Found broken glass wrapped in brass and copper wire, embellished with beads.

28 x 15 inches

Courtesy the artist



Senga Nengudi, *RSVP*, Winter 1976, Recreated 2003. Nylon mesh and found bicycle tire. 2 feet x 2 feet x 8 inches. Courtesy the artist and Thomas Erben Gallery

Senga Nengudi (b. 1943)

RSVP, Winter 1976, Recreated 2003

Nylon mesh and found bicycle tire

2 feet x 2 feet x 8 inches

Courtesy the artist and Thomas Erben Gallery

Nuki Nuki: Across 118th St., 1982/2014

Nylon mesh and wooden slats

7 x 10 x 6 feet overall (variable)

Courtesy the artist and Thomas Erben Gallery

Nnenna Okore (b. 1975)

Akuko Iro, 2011

Handmade paper, burlap, dye, and acrylic

60 x 57 x 7 inches

Courtesy the artist

The Sun Shall Rise Again, 2014

Burlap, wire, dye and acrylic

68 x 95 x 12 inches

Courtesy the artist

Tomorrow Never Dies, 2014

Burlap, wire, dye, and acrylic

65 x 87 x 18 inches

Courtesy the artist

Joyce J. Scott (b. 1948)

Pretty Girl Veiled, 2012

Nigerian wooden object, plastic & glass beads, thread drawing, and fabric
38 x 22 x 24 inches

Courtesy the artist and Goya Contemporary Gallery

SHHHHH!, 2012

Nigerian wooden object, plastic & glass beads, thread drawing, and fabric
33½ x 18½ x 17½ inches

Courtesy the artist and Goya Contemporary Gallery

Ancestry Doll: 2, 2011

Crochet dress, Japanese figurines, beads, and thread
13 x 10 x 3 inches

Courtesy the artist and Goya Contemporary Gallery

The Many Faces of Love #2, 2006

Beadwork, wood, cast glass, wire, and thread
44½ x 18 x 12 inches

Courtesy the artist and Goya Contemporary Gallery

Adejoke Tugbiyele (b. 1977)

Water Go Find Enemy, 2013

Perforated metal (drains), palm stems, copper wire, and permanently colored brass wire

75 x 100 x 35 centimeters

Courtesy the artist

LoveBird #6 and *LoveBird #7*, 2014

Perforated metal, brass, and copper wire

30 x 22 x 15 centimeters each

Courtesy the artist

Musician, 2012

Palm stems, yarn, and strainers

48 x 40 x 60 centimeters

Courtesy the artist

Collection of Ben and Giselle Huberman

Saya Woolfalk (b. 1979)

Empathic Morphology: Herniated Consciousness, 2012

Mixed media installation

6 x 12 x 4 feet

Courtesy the artist

Aerial Display (Blossoming), 2012

Mixed media installation, mannequins, fleece, wool, felt, plastic beads, plastic bones, feathers, abaca paper, glitter shoes, and spandex

20 x 9 x 2 feet

Courtesy the artist

The Empathics, 2013

Single-channel video

5 minutes, 4 seconds

Courtesy the artist



Calendar Of Programs

Opening Reception and Gallery Walk Wednesday, September 10, 2014 6:30 p.m.

Be among the first to view *Brides of Anansi: Fiber and Contemporary Art* and attend a gallery walk led by exhibition co-curator **Leslie King-Hammond, Ph.D.**, Professor Emeritus, Maryland Institute College of Art.

Yoga in the Museum Mondays, September 15 – December 1, 2014 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Look closely at works of art on view through the lens of balance, focus, and strength. Then connect these ideas with a yoga class led by certified yoga instructors.

Yoga in the Museum is free and open to beginner and experienced yogis. Space is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Yoga in the Museum is organized in partnership with the Department of Wellness.

Please contact us at 404.270.5607, museum@spelman.edu, or @spelmanmuseum on Twitter with questions and for more information.

Community Day Saturday, September 27, 2014 1:00 pm – 4:00 p.m.

A fun-filled exploration of *Brides of Anansi: Fiber and Contemporary Art* for participants of all ages that will include make-and-take workshops, interactive tours, a Storyteller's Circle, giveaways from local cultural institutions, and more.

Community Day is organized in partnership with the Department of Drama and Dance.



Community Conversations

Community Conversations invites artists, Friends of the Museum, and Atlanta University Center faculty, staff, and students to connect their passions and interests to the works of art featured in *Brides of Anansi*.

Kathleen Phillips Lewis, Chair, History Department, Spelman College

Engendering Anansi

Wednesday, October 1, 2014

5:00 p.m.

A multi-media performance paper on how women in the Caribbean manipulated folklore and storytelling, transforming the traditionally male, Anansi, into feminized versions ranging from Aunt Nancy to a variety of gender-fluid folkloric characters who, like the *Brides of Anansi* artists employ and manipulate Anansi gaming strategies to their own advantage and to effect stability and balance within their families and communities.

This Community Conversation is organized in partnership with the African Diaspora and the World Program, the History Department, and *Telling Stories: The Ida B. Wells Barnett Collaborative*.

Jessica Gaines, Dancer and Choreographer

Coiffure: aBUNdance

Thursday, November 6, 2014

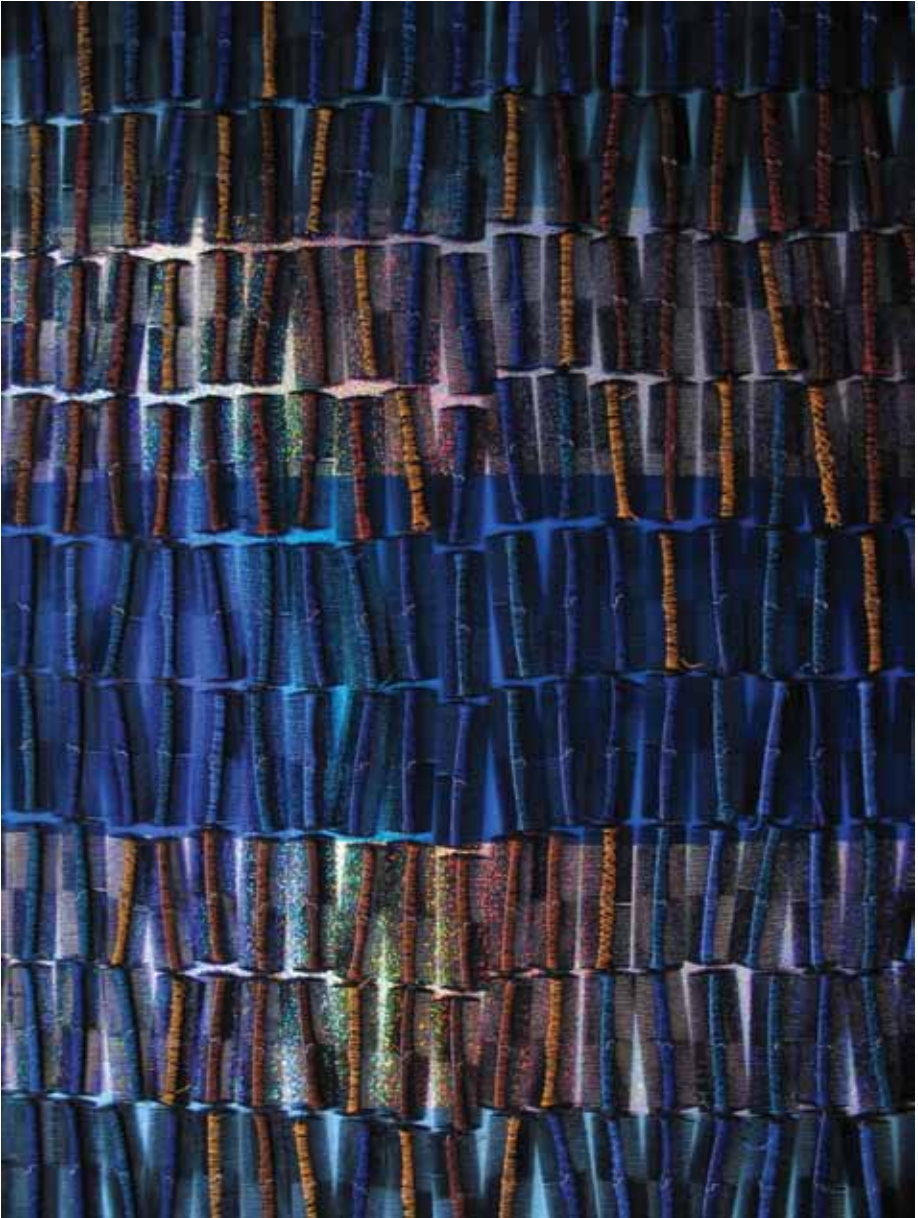
5:00 p.m.

Coiffure: aBUNdance presents a tale of hair consciousness inspired by the works of Sonya Clark from *Brides of Anansi*. Using movements influenced by Modern dance, House music culture, Yoga, and Afro-Caribbean dance articulations, Jessica Gaines presents a dialogue-driven performance about the inference of hair as an art form and a way to impart discussion about Black female wisdom and societal complications.

This Community Conversation is organized in partnership with the Department of Drama and Dance.



Photo: Rich Dorval



Sonya Clark, *Aqua Allure*, 2005. Comb, thread, and foil. 8 feet x 4 feet x 1 inch (floor piece). Courtesy the artist



Nnenna Okore, *Akuko Iro*, 2011. Handmade paper, burlap, dye, and acrylic. 60 x 57 x 7 inches. Courtesy the artist

Celebrate Homecoming with the Spelman College Museum of Fine Art

Alumnae Yoga in the Museum

Friday, October 17, 2014

10:00 a.m.

Begin the day's homecoming activities with a special yoga class led by **Makeba Dixon-Hill**, C'2003, Curator of Education, Spelman College Museum of Fine Art.

Alumnae Yoga in the Museum is organized in collaboration with the Office of Alumnae Affairs and the Department of Wellness.

Welcome Home Reception

Friday, October 17, 2014

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Join alumni from Spelman College and Morehouse College for a special welcome home reception including interactive tours of the featured exhibition *Brides of Anansi: Fiber and Contemporary Art*, music, and more.



The Welcome Home Reception is organized in partnership with the Office of Alumnae Affairs.



Joyce Scott, *SHHHHH!*, 2012. Nigerian wooden object, plastic & glass beads, thread drawing, and fabric. 33½ x 18½ x 17½ inches. Courtesy the artist and Goya Contemporary Gallery

BLACK BOX

BLACK BOX is a site for play, dialogue, and creative risk taking that encourages artists of all disciplines to engage with others connected to their subject matter.

Each program affords the opportunity for a cultural producer to share in-progress works on the art and culture of the African Diaspora in front of a live audience for feedback, engagement, and encouragement. It also provides a space for arts enthusiasts to view compelling work from some of the most exciting and thought-provoking artists working today.

If you are interested in participating, email museum@spelman.edu with 'BLACK BOX' in the subject line for submission guidelines.

C. Nicole Mason, Ph.D.

Another Tomorrow: The Role of Place and Fate in Realizing the American Dream for Black Women

Wednesday, October 29, 2014

6:30 p.m.

Through poignant narratives and observations, **C. Nicole Mason, Ph.D.** explores the truth of Black Women's Lives and the impact of community, race discrimination, sexism, and cultural stereotypes on their ability to achieve success and access opportunity in America. This BLACK BOX will be moderated by **Michaela Angela Davis**, image activist and writer.



This BLACK BOX is organized in partnership with the Women's Research & Resource Center, *Telling Stories: The Ida B. Wells Barnett Collaborative*, and the Center for Research and Policy in the Public Interest.



Anansi Reconsidered: Creative, Critical, and Connected Making in Interdisciplinary Education

Thursday, November 13, 2014

6:30 p.m.

Nettrice Gaskins, Ph.D., STEAM Director, Boston Arts Academy, will join *Brides of Anansi* artists **Saya Woolfalk** and **Xenobia Bailey** in conversation to look at how contemporary women artists look at nature and natural systems for inspiration. Topics such as STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) and biomimicry—a bridge between biology and design—will be explored. STEAM is an interdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning that is gaining momentum in the United States and around the world. This session rethinks the cultural and artistic dimensions of these areas in conjunction with the exhibition *Brides of Anansi: Fiber and Contemporary Art*.

Brides of Anansi: Fiber and Contemporary Art was made possible by the generosity of



Brides of Anansi exhibition programs are free and open to the public.

Fall 2014 Art Excursion

Prospect.3 New Orleans with Renée Stout

Thursday, October 23 – Sunday, October 26, 2014

Don't miss the art excursion with artist Renée Stout to New Orleans for Prospect.3, the premiere biennial of international contemporary art in the United States that will showcase the work of more than 50 leading and emerging contemporary artists from around the globe. To learn more about this art adventure contact **Wyatt Phillips** at wphillips@spelman.edu or 404.270.5606.



Photo: John Bentham

To learn about additional upcoming programs, please visit museum.spelman.edu.

STAY CONNECTED |



The Museum is increasingly using the web, email and social media to connect with visitors and Friends. For advance notice about upcoming exhibition-related programs, subscribe to the Museum at museum.spelman.edu, follow the Museum on Facebook at facebook.com/spelmanmuseum, on Twitter at twitter.com/spelmanmuseum and on Instagram at instagram.com/spelmanmuseum.

BECOME A FRIEND

The Spelman College Museum of Fine Art is the only museum in the nation that emphasizes art by and about women of the African Diaspora. The Museum relies on the support and generosity of Friends and Patrons. By joining this unique cultural institution, you will support the Museum's new acquisitions, special exhibitions, related programs, exclusive events, and outreach programs. Visit museum.spelman.edu to join today.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

The Museum is printing and mailing less frequently and, therefore, saving resources and reducing its impact on the environment. Instead, it is increasingly communicating with its growing community online. Subscribe to our newsletter and join the conversations at museum.spelman.edu.

The only museum in the nation emphasizing art by and about women of the African Diaspora



SPELMAN COLLEGE MUSEUM OF FINE ART
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Hours: Tuesdays - Fridays | 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Saturdays | Noon - 4:00 p.m.
Closed Sunday, Monday, holidays, and Spelman College breaks

COVER IMAGE: Saya Woolfalk, *Aerial Display (Blossoming)* (Detail), 2012. Mixed media installation, mannequins, fleece, wool, felt, plastic beads, plastic bones, feathers, abaca paper, glitter shoes, and spandex. 20 x 9 x 2 feet. Courtesy the artist