

# The William C. Mithoefer Collection of African Art



The  
College  
of  
Wooster  
Art  
Museum

Ebert Art Center

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Wooster  
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Museum**

Ebert Art Center  
Wooster, Ohio 44691

Sussel Gallery  
Burton D. Morgan Gallery

**MUSEUM HOURS**

Tuesday–Friday  
10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday  
1:00–5:00 p.m.

*Free Admission*

**INFORMATION**

330.263.2495  
artmuseum.wooster.edu

For TTY/TDD  
use Ohio Relay Service  
(1-800-750-0750) 

**FRONT**

*Large Images, clockwise:*

**Female mask**  
Ibibio peoples of Nigeria

**Linguist staff finial**  
Asante peoples of Ghana  
Collection of William C. Mithoefer  
and Renee-Paule Moyencourt

**Zamble mask**  
Guro peoples of Côte d'Ivoire

*Center:*  
**Textile (kente)**  
Asante peoples of Ghana

*Small Images, top to bottom:*  
**Rice spoon**  
Dan peoples of Liberia

**Palm wine cup**  
Kuba peoples of Democratic  
Republic of the Congo

**Headdress (gèl'édè)**  
Yoruba peoples of Nigeria

**Female headcrest**  
Igbo peoples of Nigeria

**Doll (akua ba)**  
Asante peoples of Ghana

The College of Wooster  
Art Museum  
Gift of William C. Mithoefer,  
Class of 1953, and Renee-Paule  
Moyencourt

Photography: Matt Dilyard

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# The William C. Mithoefer Collection of African Art

August 26–October 5, 2008

**The William C. Mithoefer Collection of African Art** consists of 250 objects ranging in date from antiquity through the late-20th century. Eleven African nations and 49 African ethnic groups are represented in the collection, which includes stone carvings, pendants, pipe bowls, linguist staff finials, brass castings, game boards, cups, sculpture, and a wide range of masks. The majority of the collection will be on view in this exhibition, in addition to several works on long-term loan from both Mithoefer and his wife, Renee-Paule Moyencourt.

Since 1972, William C. Mithoefer, Class of 1953, has given part of his extensive collection of African art to The College of Wooster Art Museum, where it has been utilized for classroom teaching, exhibitions, and research. Emeritus Professor of Art History, Arn Lewis, selected the first group of objects in the early 1970s to support his then newly developed *African Art* class. Since that time, several groups of objects have entered the College's permanent collection, most recently a group of over 100 objects given in 2007.

*Originally from Cleveland and raised in Cincinnati, William C. Mithoefer majored in philosophy and graduated from The College of Wooster in 1953. While working on his Ph.D. in political science at Duke University in 1958, he was called into the Foreign Service of the United States, where he spent the next 34 years working in various capacities in Washington, D.C., Madrid, Spain, and primarily in Africa.*

## Opening Reception

Tuesday, August 26, 2008  
6:00–8:00 p.m.  
Gallery talk: 7:00 p.m.  
by William C. Mithoefer

*All events are free and open to the public.*

## Conversation in the Gallery

Wednesday, September 17, 2008  
12:00–1:00 p.m.  
Kitty McManus Zurko, Director/Curator  
The College of Wooster Art Museum

*Light refreshments provided, no reservations necessary*