Visualizing Power: Plains Pictographic Arts

The Peabody Museum Weekend of the Americas

Friday, April 3 through Saturday, April 4, 2009

Talks
Discussion
Tours

Ledger books, rock art, and buffalo robes, stunning examples of Native American pictographic arts, offer the warriors’ perspective on life in the West. What stories do they tell? What can we learn from them? What significance do they have for Native peoples today?

Explore with us current understandings of Plains pictographic arts, how they changed after contact with non-Natives and exposure to written documents and new materials. The seminar expands on themes presented in the Peabody’s new exhibition Wiyohpiyata, which features a newly discovered Lakota ledgerbook from the mid-nineteenth century.
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Friday, April 3, 2009

5:30 Public lecture
Starting at Standing Rock: Following Custer and Sitting Bull to the Little Big Horn.
Nathaniel Philbrick, author of Mayflower and In The Heart of the Sea

6:30 Exhibition Opening
Wiyohpiyata: Lakota Images of the Contested West

Saturday, April 4, 2009

8:30 Registration Geological Lecture Hall, 24 Oxford Street
9:00–1 Talks and Discussion
Welcome
William L. Fash, William and Muriel Seabury Howells Director, Peabody Museum

Dimensions of Plains Pictographic Art
Castle McLaughlin, Associate Curator, Peabody Museum

Tribal Perspectives on Cultural Resources
Byron Olson, Tribal Archaeologist, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, South Dakota

Coffee Break
A Superficial Sameness: Plains Pictorial Art
Candace Greene, North American Ethnologist and Collections and Resource Officer, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution

Cheyenne Dog Soldiers: A Ledgerbook History
Andrew E. Masich, President of the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center

1:00–2:30 Lunch
What’s in a Name? Modes of Naming in Mayan, Aztec, and North American Art
Marc Zender, Research Associate, Peabody Museum

Chiwaálaatuua: Narrative Drawing of the Crow Indians
Tim McCleary, Instructor, Little Big Horn College

Artists’ Talk: Conversations with Contemporary Ledger Artist Dwayne Wilcox (Oglala Lakota) and Artist Exhibition co-Designer Butch Thunder Hawk (Hunkpapa Lakota)
Moderator: Sam Tager, Director of Exhibitions, Peabody Museum

Wrap-up discussion with Andrew E. Masich and Castle McLaughlin

5:30 Curators’ Tour of Wiyohpiyata
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**Accessibility:** All lectures and events are handicap accessible. Persons with mobility impairments should call 617-495-2269 for additional information.

**Questions:** Contact Catherine Linardos at 617-495-2269.

**Credits**


*Full page cover, bottom:* Lakota eagle-feather bonnet, 19th century, PM 985-27-10/60163, Claflin Collection.


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Candace Greene, North American Ethnologist and Collections and Resource Officer, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution (Ph.D., University of Oklahoma). Candace Greene is an ethnologist with the Collections and Archives Program at the Smithsonian and teaches anthropology at George Washington University. Her research focuses on Native North American art and material culture, especially Plains Indian drawings, working principally with Kiowa and Cheyenne people in understanding materials from those communities and making them more accessible to tribal members. She is the author of 100 Summers: A Kiowa Calendar (2007); The Year the Stars Fell: Lakota Winter Counts at the Smithsonian, ed. with Russell Thornton (2007); Silver Horn: Master Illustrator of the Kiowa (2001), and with Robert Leopold, Lakota Winter Counts, online (www.wintercounts.si.edu.). Her latest project is the Summer Institute in Museum Anthropology, a research training program supported by the National Science Foundation.

Tim McCleary, Professor of Anthropology, Little Big Horn College. Tim McCleary teaches at Little Big Horn College, the Apsáalooke or Crow Indian Tribal College and has lived on the reservation in the Two Leggings area of the Black Lodge District for twenty years. His lifelong interest in how different cultures perceive the world led him to the field of anthropology. Through his studies he has examined various aspects of the historic and contemporary culture of the Apsáalooke people. This research has covered such varied topics as the legal battles of the Native American Church in Montana, the rise of Pentecostalism on the Crow Indian Reservation, and the cultural, historical, and religious significance of land to the Apsáalooke people. This most recent interest has guided him to study the meaning and interpretation of Apsáalooke-produced rock art.

Castle McLaughlin, Associate Curator of North American Ethnography, Peabody Museum (Ph.D., Columbia University). Castle McLaughlin is a social anthropologist with research interests in politics and political economy, art and visual culture, North American Indians, and the American West, both past and present. She has conducted fieldwork on Native American ranching, wild horses, and the contemporary Native American art market. She curated the exhibition, From Nation to Nation, featuring the Peabody’s collection of Native American objects collected by Lewis and Clark and published a comprehensive study of the collection in Arts of Diplomacy: Lewis and Clark’s Indian Collection (2003). She is currently researching Plains warrior art in the Peabody’s collections and is co-curator of Wiyohpiyata: Lakota Images of the Contested West.


Byron Olson, Tribal Archaeologist, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (M.A., U. Arizona). Byron Olson, as the Standing Rock NAGPRA representative, has been working closely with the Peabody Museum and Houghton Library in researching the origins and significance of the “Half Moon ledgerbook.”

Samuel Tager, Director of Exhibits, Peabody Museum (B.F.A., Massachusetts College of Art). Sam Tager is a working sculptor and Wiyohpiyata’s co-designer with Butch Thunder Hawk. Tager is represented by Andrea Marquit Fine Art (Boston) and is a 2009 recipient of a grant from the Artist’s Resource Trust, a fund of the Berkshire Taconic Foundation. His current work will be shown at the Anthony Greaney Gallery during spring 2010.

Wallace “Butch” Thunder Hawk, Hunkpapa Lakota artist and tribal arts instructor, United Tribes Technical College (M.A., California College of Art and Crafts). Thunder Hawk also studied tribal arts, including pipe making, with elders at Standing Rock. He has taught tribal arts at United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck, North Dakota, since the late 1970s. In 2001, he was invited with other artists to help recreate the famous Indian Hall at Thomas Jefferson’s home in Monticello, Va. Thunder Hawk is co-designer and co-curator of Wiyohpiyata. He was also the recipient of the Peabody’s Hrdy Fellowship.

Dwayne “Chuck” Wilcox, Oglala Lakota artist. Mr. Wilcox’s drawings and paintings “ledger-style” artwork reflects a contemporary way of life rather than the past, often depicting pow-wows, people preparing for dances, families spending time together, and other everyday scenes. According to Mr. Wilcox, “I’m alive now. Our time is just as important as the past.” Dwayne Wilcox has conducted research at the Smithsonian, the Suitland Annex Archive, Carlisle Indian School through the Cumberland Historical Society on ledger art. Mr. Wilcox was raised on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. He currently resides in Rapid City, South Dakota, where he has his Dog Hat Studio (www.doghatstudio.com).

Marc Zender, Research Associate, Peabody Museum (Ph.D., University of Calgary). Marc Zender’s research interests include anthropological and historical linguistics, comparative writing systems and decipherment (particularly Aztec and Maya writing), and Mesoamerican archaeology. He is project epigrapher for the Proyecto Arqueológico de Comalcalco, directed by Ricardo Armijo Torres, and has undertaken linguistic, epigraphic, and archaeological fieldwork in much of the Maya area, including Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico. His recent publications include: “Universal and the Logic of the Material Implication: A Case Study from Maya Hieroglyphic Writing” (Research Reports on Ancient Maya Writing 62, 2007, co-written with John Robertson, Stephen Houston and David Stuart) and “Fit to be Tied: Funerary Practices among the Prehispanic Maya” In J. Guerney and F. Kent Reilly, eds., Sacred Bundles: Ritual Arts of Wrapping and Binding in Mesoamerica, (2007), co-written with Kathryn Reese-Taylor and Debra L. Walker.
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Half and full covers and inside:

Full page cover, bottom:
Lakota eagle-feather bonnet, 19th century, PM 985-27-10/60163, Claflin Collection.

Inside:
Horse stick, Lakota, 2003, Butch Thunder Hawk, Private Collection. Lakota Silver-plate hair disks, 19th century, PM 74-18-10/7649.

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Registration Form

Name ____________________________

Address ____________________________

City, State, Zip ____________________________

Telephone Day / Evening ____________________________

Email ____________________________

Registration Fee includes all lectures, workshops, tours, and Friday evening reception.

Please reserve _____ places for the Peabody Weekend of the Americas

☐ FREE Peabody Museum Members and Harvard ID holders

☐ $35 Non-Peabody Museum Member

☐ $25 Full-time Student/Senior Citizen (Copy of ID required)

☐ Not a member? Sign up for Membership and receive the Member rate!

Please print First Name and Last Name exactly as you would like them to appear on the name tag

Event | Number of Participants | Rate | Total
---|---|---|---
Weekend Registration
(includes all lectures, Friday reception, Saturday lunch, tours, parking pass) | | Member: Free | Nonmember: $35 | Student/senior: $25

Peabody Membership | | Single: $40; Family: $60 | Student/Senior: $25

Box Lunch | | $10

Parking Pass | | Free with weekend registration

Grand Total

☐ Check enclosed. Make Check Payable to Peabody Museum

☐ Credit Card through PayPal (Follow instructions at www.peabody.harvard.edu/Weekend.html)

No confirmation will be sent.
Cancelled check or credit card bill serves as your receipt.

Mail or Fax to: Office of External Relations
Peabody Museum
Harvard University
11 Divinity Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02138

Phone 617-495-2269; Fax: 617-495-7535
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