

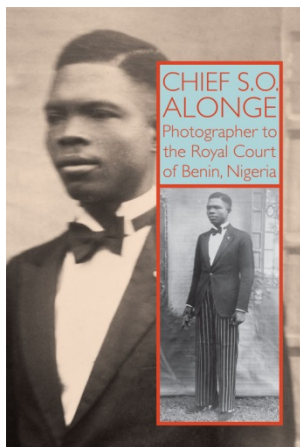
The National Museum of African Art



'One Woman at the Centre of the Universe' audience-performers interacting with rope lights in Karoo, South Africa, 2015 (photo by Marcus Neustetter).

In December 2015, The National Museum of African Art (Washington, D.C.) presented a lecture by South African artist and cultural activist Marcus Neustetter (a Smithsonian Artist Research Fellow investigating the collections of the National Museum of African Art and National Air and Space Museum) who focus his work on the intersections of art, science, and technology. Neustetter has produced numerous cross-disciplinary projects in the gallery as well as the public and virtual domain. In his work he uses the term *the vertical gaze* to describe the act of looking, whether into the night sky or beneath the layers of earth.

In February 2015, Nigerian artist Emeka Ogboh will bring his sound art to the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art in the new work *Market Symphony* which draws on the commercial cries and urban ambiance of Balogun, a sprawling open-air market in Lagos, Africa's largest and most populated city. Ogboh's "soundscape" lets visitors experience the distinctive sounds of this vibrant Nigerian metropolis and the traders who drive its daily economy.



The 'Chief S.O. Alonge: Photographer to the Royal Court of Benin, Nigeria' is on exhibit until July 2016, featuring Solomon Osagie Alonge (1911–1994), one of Nigeria's premiere photographers and the first official photographer of the royal court of Benin, Nigeria. His work spans half a century and presents a dynamic continuous record of the reigns of Oba Akenzua II (1933–78) and Oba Erediauwa (1979–present) and the political and social events surrounding the royal palace. Chief Alonge's legacy includes 60 years of photography—an archive of over 3,000 images that represents an unprecedented visual history of Benin royalty and society in the 20th century.



The National Museum of African Art is the only museum in the U.S. dedicated to the collection, conservation, study and exhibition of traditional and contemporary African art. The museum was founded as a small museum on Capitol Hill in 1964 became a part of the Smithsonian Institution in 1979, and in 1987 it moved to its current location on the National Mall. The museum's collection of over 12,000 objects represents nearly every area of the continent of Africa and contains a variety of media and art forms.

The mission of the museum is to inspire conversations about the beauty, power, and diversity of African arts and cultures worldwide. The museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (closed December 25). Admission is free. The museum is located at 950 Independence Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20560. For more information call (202) 633-4600, e-mail: nmafaweb@si.edu or visit the museum's website at Africa.si.edu.