

uima

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA MUSEUM OF ART

FALL 2009

UIMA OUTREACH STUDY COLLECTION EXPANDS



Benin Leopard, Benin people. Brass. 18"x7"x23"

Area schoolchildren will have the chance to experience more than 30 new art objects in their classrooms this year.

UIMA Director of Education Dale Fisher purchased these works to expand the UIMA's Outreach Study Collection, created last year to take art to the schools for the Museum's popular K-12 educational programs, "Widen Our World" ("WOW!") for third-graders and "Discover Africa" for seventh-graders, when the flood prevented classes from coming to the Museum.

"After one year of presenting these programs as outreach to the schools and seeing the level of active engagement that can be achieved in the classroom, I realized that we needed to have more of a range of works on hand," said Fisher.

He added that his in-class experiences this past year informed his purchases: students were excited by the visual qualities of the works as well as the content the docents presented during the class visits.

"Since all of the works have a 'story' to tell, we wanted to find works that spoke to the students across cultures and media, as well as through design and craft," Fisher said.

COLLECTIONS UPDATE



UIMA Graduate Curatorial Assistant Nathan Popp in the Museum's print storage area at the Figge Art Museum.

So many people have donated artwork to the UIMA over the years; it's perfectly understandable that there might be some concern about its status after the flood. We can assure all of our generous donors that the art is safe!

Overall, about 200 objects needed some form of treatment by the conservators at the Chicago Conservation Center because of the flood. Nearly all have been cared for and are now in storage at the Figge.

"A few works were affected by the humidity," said UIMA Chief Curator Kathleen Edwards. "Some works on paper 'cockled,' meaning the paper became wavy. Here and there paint finish came off a frame."

UIMA works already slated for conservation before the flood—mainly African objects—will remain in Chicago to receive the treatment they require.

"We have engaged expert conservators to ensure that the status of all of our objects is no less than perfect," said Pamela White, UIMA interim director. "We are treating each object with the care and attention an original work of art deserves."