

The Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry Emory University

Public Scholarship Forum



Unrecorded maker(s). Drum in a style identified as Senufo. By 1957.
The Art Institute of Chicago 1990.137

Wednesday, February 27, 2019
Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry
1635 N. Decatur Road
4 - 7 p.m.

What Is Senufo?

Susan Elizabeth Gagliardi,
Assistant Professor of Art History, Emory University
Constantine Petridis, Department Chair
and Curator of African Art, The Art Institute of Chicago

Since February 2012, Susan Elizabeth Gagliardi and Constantine (Costa) Petridis have been investigating the term *Senufo* and its application to a corpus of objects from West Africa. Their collaboration began when Petridis, who was then the curator of African art at the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA), invited Gagliardi to write a book on arts identified as Senufo in conjunction with an exhibition he sought to organize. Petridis used the thesis of Gagliardi's book to structure the exhibition, "Senufo: Art and Identity in West Africa." The exhibition opened at the CMA in February 2015 and then traveled to Saint Louis in the United States and to Montpellier in France. Their work on the exhibition led Gagliardi and Petridis to co-direct *Mapping Senufo*, an in-progress, born-digital, multimodal, open-access publication project. Nearly seven years to the day since Gagliardi and Petridis started their joint examination of the term *Senufo* and the corpus of art the term names, they will discuss how they have sought to share art and analysis of it with broad audiences through their exhibition and digital publication project.

For more information or to make a reservation, please email the Fox Center: foxcenter@emory.edu
or call 404.727.6424.