

# ANTIQUES & THE ARTS WEEKLY

NEWTOWN, CT  
WEEKLY 13,500  
JAN 25 2008



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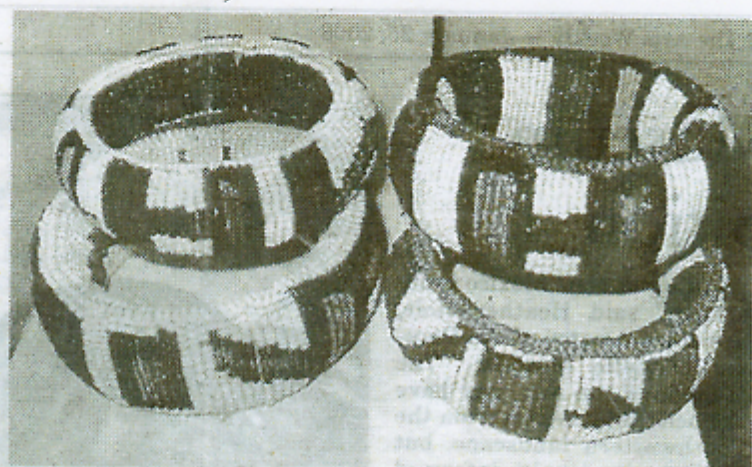
## 'Art Of Africa' Opens Jan. 25 At Frederik Meijer Gardens

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. — Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park is hosting a major museum presentation of works from Africa. The exhibition, "Art of Africa: Objects from the Collection of Warren M. Robbins" is open January 25–May 4.

This exhibition is the first major museum presentation of its kind in west Michigan and will explore the function and context of more than 80 objects, as well as their cultural significance. Meijer Gardens is the only Michigan venue for this exhibition.

An understanding of the roles African art has played and how it is an integral part of life in most African cultures will be apparent upon visiting the exhibition. "Art of Africa" will display art objects representing the traditions and ceremonies of 30 cultures from sub-Saharan Africa. Created for ceremonial purposes as well as utilitarian objects of daily life, these items have had a profound influence on Western culture since the beginning of the Twentieth Century.

The objects are from the collection of Warren M. Robbins, founding director emeritus and Smithsonian senior scholar at the National Museum of African Art. Robbins established the first museum exclusively to the art and culture of Africa and is among



Bracelets, Ndebele People, South Africa.

the nation's foremost authorities on African art.

*Five African Art Facts*, courtesy of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, will be playing in the Hoffman Auditorium. The film helps viewers understand the special uses and forms of traditional African objects. Several masks and ritual items from different sub-Saharan cultures show how ancient customs and traditions continue to add richness and guidance to the lives of many people in Africa today. The exhibition will be supported with videos of traditional ceremonies, Kente cloth weaving and mask carving, maps and a comprehensive gallery guide explaining key concepts in the exhibition.

Public programs included in the price of admission include

"Road Show with George Bayard" with the local gallery owner and African art expert on Sunday January 27, at 2 pm.

"Clothing and Culture of Ghana" by Georgia Farr, Creations by Georgia, is set for Saturday, February 2, at 2 pm. Visitors will learn the significance of Kente cloth from Ghana in this cultural fashion show. Models will wear traditional and contemporary African garments.

"Understanding African Art" by Dr Meredith Palumbo, Kendall College of Art and Design, will be presented on Sunday, February 24, at 2 pm.

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park is at 1000 East Beltline Avenue NE. For information, 616-975-3155 or [www.meijergardens.org](http://www.meijergardens.org).