

UCSD's Grove Gallery to exhibit traditional African artifacts

March 10, 1998

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UCSD'S GROVE GALLERY TO EXHIBIT TRADITIONAL AFRICAN ARTIFACTS

Faces and Spirits, an exhibition of traditional ceremonial objects from western and central Africa, will be on view March 30 through April 5 in the Grove Gallery at the University of California, San Diego.

The more than 100 pieces are from the collection of Julie and Ian Allen of La Jolla, who spend two months each year traveling in Africa and collecting artifacts. Countries represented include the Ivory Coast, Liberia, Guinea, Nigeria, the Congo, Cameroon, Gabon and Mali.

According to Zimbabwe native and art collector Ian Allen, the exhibition concentrates on objects used in traditional ceremonies and rituals which occur during an individual's cycle of life, from birth to death. These include masks, fertility dolls, maternity figures, sculptures which represent rites of passage ceremonies, entrance into various stages of life, objects of secret societies, and other artifacts representative of the cultures.

"Each year these objects become more difficult to find," said Allen, whose travels continually challenge him to dig deeper and deeper into the cultures of these countries.

Allen said that in addition to the traditional objects, there will be a few contemporary works as well: dolls, baskets and some sculpture from Zimbabwe by the Shona tribe who create stone carvings with primitive hand tools resulting in contemporary, modern, abstract art forms.

Most of the pieces in the exhibit will be for sale. A reception for Faces and Spirits will be from 7 to 9 p.m. April 3. The event is free and open to the public.

Grove Gallery is located in the UCSD Crafts Center Complex on the Revelle College campus off Eucalyptus Grove Lane. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Admission is free. For information call 534-2021.

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