

WORLD ARTS, LOCAL LIVES

WAC 24

Professor Mary (Polly) Nooter Roberts
Spring quarter

ID#359-072-200
MW 10:00-11:50am
Kaufman 153

World Arts/Local Lives is an undergraduate course designed to explore and reveal the powerful roles that the arts play in cultures worldwide. The course uses the Fowler Museum's long-term exhibition "Intersections: World Arts/Local Lives" as an object of study to examine the many insights that the arts can offer into social, political and religious experience. Drawing on cultures of Africa, Asia, the Pacific, and the indigenous Americas, both ancient and contemporary, the course begins with an exploration of *aesthetics* and *efficacy* in art forms that were made to serve specific purposes and to intervene in peoples' lives in active, instrumental ways. Other themes to be considered are relationships between the arts and domains of *knowledge, power, and transformation*, including arts for spiritual mediation, memorial and transcendence, and social change and innovation.

Tours of the "Intersections" exhibition throughout the course will enable students to learn about the process of curating museum exhibitions, and two written assignments will require independent visits by students for examination and comparison of objects and ideas in the Fowler Museum galleries. Audiovisual media from the exhibition will be presented in the classroom to demonstrate objects in cultural and performance contexts, artists at work, and objects as conduits for collaborations with indigenous communities.



World Arts and Cultures
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