

Save Our Art! Save Our Heritage! Campaign

Featured Charity

“Africa Now - Modern Africa” Bonhams

May 25th, London

The **Save Our Art! Save Our Heritage! Campaign** is delighted to be selected by Bonhams, one of the world’s premiere auctioneers of fine art, as its recognized charity in the upcoming auction of African Modern Art in London on May 25th.

This endorsement underscores the importance of the art in the Osun Osogbo Groves, one of Nigeria’s true artistic and cultural treasures, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, one of only two in Nigeria,

The Osun Osogbo Groves, a uniquely tranquil green space in the heart of Yoruba land in Osun State, houses an astonishing collection of monumental sculptures that recall a rich cultural history.

Without support the art in this remarkable site cannot be preserved and the ongoing work of restoration cannot continue.

The Bonhams endorsement is an extension of a campaign launched last year spearheaded by the Susanne Wenger Adunni Olorisha Trust (AOT), to safeguard the art in the 75-hectare grove.

Susanne Wenger, worked prolifically in collaboration with important local Osogbo artists: Adebisi Akanji, Rabiú Abesu, Kasali Akangbe-Ogun among others for over 40 years beginning in 1958. These unique sculptures exemplify the artists’ commitment to creating art that reflects the intrinsic culture and traditions of Nigeria.

The urgent restoration work focuses on several key areas:

- Conservation of art and heritage in Nigeria’s UNESCO World Heritage Site;
- Youth training and employment of the next generation of Osogbo artists and artisans;
- Employment and economic development through enhanced tourism;
- Promotion of art, providing education and awareness of this unique art legacy within Nigeria and internationally
- Protect the environment in this unique unspoiled forest.

To date the Susanne Wenger Adunni Olorisha Trust (AOT) has completed seven major restorations. Based on that solid track record, the Trust projects that within five

years the artists can restore all the remaining works of art in the UNESCO site and, quite importantly, train the next generation of restoration artists.

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