Claremont, CA – The Pomona College Museum of Art has received a $25,000 Academic Program Grant from the Terra Foundation for American Art for the symposium, “The Crossing/La traversée: Art in Haiti and the U.S.” to be held March 3 through 5, 2016 at The Claremont Colleges. The Terra Foundation for American Art actively supports projects that encourage international scholarship on American art topics, as well as scholarly projects with focused theses that further research on American art in an international context. The foundation’s academic program funding, competitively awarded through peer review, supports symposia, colloquia, and convenings that advance scholarship in the field of American art (circa 1500–1980).

“The Crossing/La traversée: Art in Haiti and the U.S.” is co-organized by the Pomona College Museum of Art, the Pomona College History Department, and Claremont Graduate University. The symposium will convene national and international scholars and artists to examine the deep connections between the art and material culture of Haiti and the United States. Dr. Terri Geis, Curator of Academic Programs at the Pomona College Museum of Art, notes, “this substantial grant from the Terra Foundation allows us to bring together an exciting group of scholars, artists, and cultural leaders to share information and deepen the understanding of Haitian art and the art of the U.S. as they intersect. The symposium will explore themes including the history of Haiti as a symbol of liberation for artists in the U.S., the impact of the U.S. occupation of Haiti from 1915-1934 on Haitian artists, and also include presentations by prominent U.S.-based artists of the Haitian diaspora. My fellow symposium organizers, April Mayes, Associate Professor of History at Pomona College, and Marlene Daut, Associate Professor of English and Cultural Studies at Claremont Graduate University, and I are deeply grateful to the Terra Foundation for making this unique opportunity possible.”

The keynote speaker for “The Crossing/La traversée” is renowned painter, sculptor, and installation artist Edouard Duval-Carrié. Other events include: a reading by literary theorist and novelist Myriam J. A. Chancy, recently appointed Hartley Burr Alexander Chair in the Humanities at Scripps College, from her forthcoming novel on the negotiation of national and individual traumas in Haiti and the U.S. and a one-woman performance by Professor of Anthropology at Wesleyan University Gina Athena Ulysse, “VooDooDoll: What if Haiti Were a Woman On ti Travay sou 21 Pwen or An Alter(ed)native in Something Other than Fiction.”
The symposium accompanies the exhibition “Restoring the Spirit: Celebrating Haitian Art,” which will be on view at the Pomona College Museum of Art from January 19 through May 15, 2016. The exhibition is a landmark survey of Haiti’s complex visual traditions from 1940 to the present, a portrait of its artists’ devotion to creative endeavors in the face of national adversity. “Restoring the Spirit: Celebrating Haitian Art” is curated by Rima Girnius, originated by the Figge Art Museum, and toured by Curatorial Assistance, Pasadena, California.

Additional funding for “The Crossing/La traverse: Art in Haiti and the U.S.” comes from the Thornton F. Bradshaw Fund at Claremont Graduate University and the Janet Inskeep Benton ’79 Fund for Museum Programming at the Pomona College Museum of Art. For more information on the symposium please see: http://www.pomona.edu/museum/events/2016/crossingla-traverse-art-haiti-and-us-1915-1986

Museum Information

The Museum collects, preserves, exhibits and interprets works of art; and houses a substantial permanent collection as well as serving as a gallery of temporary exhibitions. Important holdings include the Kress Collection of 15th- and 16th-century Italian panel paintings; more than 5,000 examples of Pre-Columbian to 20th-century American Indian art and artifacts, including basketry, ceramics and beadwork; and a large collection of American and European prints, drawings and photographs, including works by Francisco de Goya, José Clemente Orozco, and Rico Lebrun.

ADMISSION

All exhibitions and programs are free of charge and open to the public.

GENERAL INFORMATION

330 North College Avenue
Claremont, CA 91711
Tuesday through Sunday, 12-5 p.m., Closed Mondays
Art After Hours: Thursday, 5-11 p.m., Jan. 21 – Apr. 28, 2016

Art After Hours offers a variety of programming including live music concerts sponsored by KSPC 88.7 FM, lectures, panels, workshops, tours, film screenings, and performances in conjunction with Museum exhibitions.

For more information, please call 909.621.8283 or visit www.pomona.edu/museum.