From earliest times to today, indigenous peoples of the Americas have valued shamanic visionary trance as one of their most important cultural and religious experiences. In Mesoamerica, Central America, and the Andes shamans still speak of their wondrous trance journeys to other cosmic realms, the truths they learn, and the information they bring back to cure their communities’ ills.

The exhibition ‘For I am the Black Jaguar’: Shamanic Visionary Experience in Ancient American Art, on view from September 8, 2012, through January 5, 2013, highlights works from the Carlos Museum collections that embody the shamanistic visionary experience. The show’s title is based on a quote from a contemporary traditional Taulipang shaman of northern Brazil, “Call upon me for I am the black jaguar… I drive away the illness…”

The shaman’s statement conveys the most pervasive shamanic visionary experience of actually becoming a powerful animal, the black jaguar in particular.

The exhibition includes extraordinary works of art showcasing the most important elements of trance consciousness, especially the visionary himself or herself, transforming into an animal such as a powerful black jaguar, an enormous whale shark, a predatory owl, or a venomous rattlesnake. Animal selves and spirit companions are considered to be guides to the shaman in caring for the community, the animals’ powers augmenting the shaman’s innate healing abilities.

Works of art illustrate how visions are achieved in traditional settings—from meditation, to drumming and dancing, to ingesting sacred plants such as peyote, caapi vines, and espingo seeds. Modern shamans refer to these as “plant teachers,” and they are understood to be wise spiritual guides through the cosmic realms beyond the terrestrial.

The exhibition examines the central role that visionary experience plays in Amerindian shamanism—informing art in all media, periods and regions—and demonstrates how contemporary accounts by practicing shamans can illuminate the choices made by ancient American artists.
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Thursday, September 13
7:30 PM, Level Three Galleries

Gallery Talk
Dr. Rebecca Stone, Masse-Martin/NEH Distinguished Professor of Art History at Emory University and curator of ‘For I am the Black Jaguar,’ leads visitors through the exhibition highlighting major themes and objects.

Saturday, September 15
10 AM, Level Three Galleries

Artful Stories
As long as there have been people on the earth they have looked at the night sky and told imaginative stories about the celestial bodies they could see. Hear a story about jaguars and the moon from the Toba people of Bolivia while surrounded by images of jaguars in the exhibition. Afterwards, enjoy an exploration of the skies of the ancient Americas in the StarLab portable planetarium from Fernbank Science Center. For ages 3 to 5 years and accompanying adults. These programs are free but a reservation is required by calling 404-727-0519.

Sundays, September 16 & 30
2 PM, Tate Room

Children’s Workshop
Powerful jaguars, with the ability to climb, swim, and leap and capture prey more than twenty feet away, were popular subjects in ancient American ceramics. The black jaguar, a creature of the rainforests in Central and South America, was represented in black-ware ceramics, enlivened with incised lines and added three-dimensional decoration. In part one of this workshop with Atlanta ceramic artist Ana Vizurraga, children will explore the exhibition and make jaguar pots. In part two they will fire their pots to achieve the black surface. For ages 8 to 12 years. Fee: $12 for Carlos Museum members; $15 for non-members. Registration is required by contacting Nina West at 404-727-0519 or nwest@emory.edu.

Tuesday, September 18
4 PM, Reception Hall

AntiquiTEA
Enjoy afternoon tea and scones as Meghan Tierney, PhD candidate in the Art History Department, discusses the image of the flying shaman found in the art of the ancient Nasca civilization.

Mondays, September 24 & October 1
7:30 PM, Board Room

Carlos Reads Book Club
Ricardo Gutierrez-Mouat, Professor in Emory’s Department of Spanish and Portuguese, leads readers through Nobel Prize winner Mario Vargas Llosa’s The Storyteller. Over two Monday evenings, readers will explore themes in the novel related to shamanism—the relationship between the shaman and the storyteller, the relationship between literature and anthropology, and the encounter between the “modern” and the “primitive.” Fee: $20 for Carlos Museum members; $30 for non-members, and includes the cost of the books. Registration is required by calling 404-727-6118.

For more information on these and upcoming educational programs in conjunction with
**Friday, September 28**

5 PM, Reception Hall

**Evening for Educators**

K-12 teachers are invited to enjoy wine and hors d’oeuvres, tour the exhibition, and hear an introduction to its themes by curator Dr. Rebecca Stone. The Museum bookshop will be open and teachers will receive a 10% on all sales. RSVP to jgree09@emory.edu.

**Sunday, October 7**

1–5 PM, Tate Room

**Workshop for Children**

The Huichol people of Mexico make colorful patterned sculptures of jaguars, birds, and other animals by pressing small beads into beeswax that coats the surface of the sculptural form. In this workshop, children will explore the many jaguars that prowl in the exhibition and make a beaded jaguar of their own. For ages 8 to 12. Fee $12 for Carlos Museum members; $15 for non-members. Registration is required by contacting Nina West at 404-727-0519 or nwest@emory.edu.

**Thursday, October 11**

7:30 PM, Reception Hall

**Lecture**

Dr. Ray Hernández-Durán, Associate Professor of Art and Art History at the University of New Mexico, discusses the syncretism of Catholic and shamanic religious practice evident in art of New Spain and through the present day in a lecture titled *The Indigenous and Colonial Roots of the Magical Imagery in Latin American Visual Culture.*

**Thursday, October 18**

5 PM, Tate Room

**Workshop for Teachers**

Dr. Rebecca Stone will introduce teachers to the shamanic worldview and its influence on the appearance of works of art. Teachers will explore ceramic vessels, woven textiles, and musical instruments used in religious rituals or representing the shaman as both human and animal. Fee: $7 for Museum members; $10 for non-members. Registration is required by contacting Julie Green at jgree09@emory.edu or 404-727-2363.

**Tuesday, October 23**

7:30 PM, Reception Hall

**Cooking Class**

David Sweeney of The Bakery at Cakes and Ale has wowed Atlanta foodies with his quinoa bowls, daily offerings of the healthy and versatile grain flavored with seasonal vegetables. Come learn about quinoa, first domesticated by the indigenous people of Peru some 4,000 years ago, and watch David turn this humble grain into unforgettable dishes. Registration required by calling 404-727-6118.

**Thursday, November 1**

7:30 PM, Reception Hall

**Lecture**

Patricia Ewer, Andrew W. Mellon Visiting Conservator, discusses the treatment of an ancient Peruvian textile featured in the exhibition in a lecture titled *Threads of Life: A Pelican-Shaman Textile from the Andes.*
Thursday, November 8  
7:30 pm, Reception Hall

**Lecture**

Dr. Rebecca Stone examines colonial documentation of Inka shamanic practices found in the work of seventeenth-century Jesuit friar Bernabé Cobo in a lecture titled ‘Confessors, Doctors, and Sorcerors: Inka Religion as Imperial Shamanism.

Tuesday, November 13  
4 pm, Reception Hall

**AntiquiTEA**

Enjoy afternoon tea and scones as Kira Jones, PhD candidate in the Art History Department, discusses entheogens—psychoactive substances used in ancient American shamanic ritual practice—depicted on works of art in the exhibition.

Thursday, November 29  
7:30 pm, Reception Hall

**Lecture**

In a lecture titled Finding the Jaguar Within: Psychedelics, the Brain, and the Shaman’s Journey, Dr. Katherine MacLean of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Dr. Charles Raison, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Arizona, discuss what happens in the brain during shamanic trances brought about in part by the ingestion of entheogenic substances.

Thursday, December 6  
7:30 pm, Reception Hall

**Lecture**

Dr. Sylvia Marcos, Director of the Center for Psychoethnological Research in Cuernavaca, Mexico, and author of Taken From the Lips: Gender and Eros in Mesoamerican Religions, discusses the role of women in ancient and modern religions and healing traditions in a lecture titled Stories and Songs of Women Healers, Shamans and Midwives: Mexico’s Indigenous Traditions.

*‘For I am the Black Jaguar’* is made possible by the generous financial support of the Massey Charitable Trust. Educational programs in conjunction with the exhibition are supported in part by a grant from the Emory College Center for Creativity & Arts’ David Goldwasser Series in Religion and the Arts.

**Free admission and extended hours on select Thursdays this fall**

On Thursdays, September 13, October 11, and November 8, the Museum will offer extended hours until 7:30 pm. Admission to the galleries is free on these days beginning at 1 pm. Bring a friend to see ‘For I am the Black Jaguar’ or the permanent collections and stay for a lively lecture or gallery talk, which begins at 7:30 pm.

On January 26, 2013, the Carlos Museum will open newly reinstalled galleries of Art of the Americas. The galleries will feature new interpretations of many objects in the collection, new loans and acquisitions, and for the first time, a gallery devoted to Native North American art. The first installation in this new gallery, Walking in the Footsteps of Our Ancestors: The Melion-Clum Collection of Modern Southwestern Pottery, will include seed pots, red- and black-ware, vessels inspired by basketry, and objects made by the famous Quezada family of potters from Las Casas.
The Michael C. Carlos Museum is situated on the historic quadrangle of the Emory University campus.

**Join Us** Call 404-727-2623; email carlosmembership@emory.edu; visit carlos.emory.edu/join

**Hours** Tuesday through Saturday: 10 AM–4 PM; Sunday: NOON–5 PM; Closed Mondays and University holidays.

**Caffè Antico** Monday–Saturday: 11 AM–3 PM

**Admission** Adults: $8. Emory students, faculty, and staff: Free. Students, seniors, and children ages 6–17: $6 (Children ages 5 and under free).

**Public Transportation** MARTA bus line 6 Emory from Inman Park/Reynoldstown and Lindbergh stations or 36 North Decatur from Avondale and Arts Center stations.

**Parking** Paid visitor parking in the visitor sections of the Fishburne and Peavine Parking Decks and in the new Oxford Road Parking Deck, located behind the new Barnes and Noble @ Emory, 1390 Oxford Road.

**Handicapped Parking** Drop off for handicap visitors at Plaza level entrance on South Kilgo Circle. Handicap-accessible parking is available in the Oxford Road and Peavine Decks. A handicap-accessible shuttle runs from the Peavine Deck, weekdays every 10 minutes.

**Tours** Advanced booking required for weekday or weekend groups of 10 or more. For reservations, please call 404-727-0519 at least two weeks before your group would like to visit.

**Public Tours** Depart from the rotunda on Sundays at 2 PM.

**Audio Tour of Permanent Collection** $2. Free for Museum members.

**Museum Information** 404-727-4282

**World Wide Web Access** carlos.emory.edu

**Stay Connected**

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**Cover**

*Globular Vessel with Incised and Modeled Jaguar Motifs*


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The Carlos Museum is located just minutes from Buckhead, Midtown, and Downtown hotels.