

Sufi Arts, Rituals and Performance in Africa

University of Kansas
February 22-24

Conference Program

Thursday, 22 February

Spencer Museum of Art

4:30 – 5:30 pm
Auditorium

Keynote Address
Allen F. Roberts
UCLA, Director of the World Arts Program

5:30 – 7:30 pm
Foyer

Opening Reception for
“Saint in the City, Sufi Arts of Urban Senegal”
Traveling exhibition, curated by Allen F. Roberts and Polly
Nooter Roberts, UCLA Fowler Museum

Music by “Shining Heart”

Friday, 23 February

Woodruff Auditorium

10:00 – 11:00 am

Morocco, North Africa
Cynthia Becker, Boston University
“Sons of Bambara: The Sufi-Inspired Arts of the Moroccan
Gnawa”

11:00 – 11:40 am

Majid Hannoum, University of Kansas
"Hagiography, Sanctity, and the Symbolism of Places: Ibn
Maryam on Abu Madyan"

11:40 – 12:20 am

Amanda Rogers, Emory University
“Legitimizing Popular Islam: Bilal, Blackness, and the
Gnawa Brotherhood

12:20 – 1:00pm

Margaret Rausch, University of Kansas
“Body, Language and Text in Southwestern Moroccan
Ishelhin Women’s Sufi Ritual Performances”

Lunch Break

2:00 – 3:00 pm

Sudan
Salah Hassan, Cornell University, Editor of *Nka: Journal of
Contemporary African Art*;
Topic tba

3:00 – 3:40 pm	Osman Mohamed Osman Ali, University of Khartoum, Sudan “The Esoteric/Exoteric Duality & The Perception of Realities: A Study among Sudanese Sufis.”
3:40 – 4:20 pm	Saadia Malik and Khalid El-Hassan, University of Kansas “The Republican Brotherhood and Sufism in Sudan: Reflections on Performance, Rituals, and Theological Perceptions”
Coffee Break	
4:40 – 5:40 pm	Soulemayne Diagne Bachir, Northwestern University Topic tba
5:40 – 6:20 pm	John Janzen and Khalid El-Hassan, University of Kansas “Sheikhs, Saints, and <i>Baraka</i> : Sufi Healing and Social Construction in Central Sudan”
Saturday, 24 February	Spencer Museum of Art (Auditorium)
	<i>Senegal</i>
9:00 -10:00 am	Fiona McLaughlin, University of Florida Topic tba
10:00 -10:40 am	Kinsey Katchka, North Carolina Museum of Art Topic tba
10:40 – 11:20 am	Dylan Bassett, Kansas University “Music and Spirituality in Modern Senegal: Parallels between Islamic Sufism in Practice and Universal Sufism in Thought
11:20 – 12:00 pm	Laura L. Cochrane, Washington University in St. Louis “Spirits and Tapestry Weaving Production in Senegal”
Lunch Break	
	<i>Mixed panel</i>
1:00 -2:00 pm	Cheikh Babou, University of Pennsylvania “Sufi Eschatology and Hagiography as Responses to Colonial Repression: an Examination of the Meanings of Amadu Bamba’s Trial and Exiles by the French colonial Administration of Senegal 1895-1907.”
2:00- 2:40 pm	Neil McHugh, Fort Lewis College, CO

“The Qubba (Domed Tomb) in the Nilotic Sudan.”

Coffee Break

- 3:00 – 3:40 pm *Ethiopia*
Aveil Katzir Hausmann, Ethiopia
“The Concept of Intercession in the Baaroo:
Oromo Hymns in Praise of Shaik Nur Hussein of Bale ,
Ethiopia”
- 3:40 – 4:20 pm Jeane Miller, New York University
“Hagiographic Story Telling in Anajian, Ethiopia”
- 4:20 – 4:30 pm Closing remarks
- 4:30 – 6:00 pm Sufi Poetry Reading (directed by Majid Hannoum)
Foyer
Majid Hannoum, University of Kansas
Poetry by Ibn Arabi, Abu Madyan and others; read in both
Arabic and English
Mohammed El Hodiri, University of Kansas
Folkloric and Sufi Chant in Arabic; Poetry by Ibn Arabi;
read in Arabic and English
Garth Myers, University of Kansas
Poetry by Ahmed Nabhany; read in Swahili and English
Beverly Mack, University of Kansas
Poetry by Nana Asam’us, read in Hausa.
- 7:00pm **Dinner for all participants**
Museum Director’s loft in downtown Lawrence

Please note:

Ibra Sene, Michigan State University, whose participation was announced earlier, will not be able to attend the conference, but his paper, “Religion Performance, Youth and Cultural Identity: Hizbut Tarqiyya (Senegal), 1975-1998” will be considered for inclusion in the conference proceedings.