

Caravans of Gold: Fragments in Time: Art, Culture, and Exchange across Medieval Saharan Africa

MAY 28, 2020 3:30-6 p.m.

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Gold from West Africa was the engine that drove the movement of things, people, and ideas across Africa, Europe, and the Middle East in an interconnected medieval world. As the works in this exhibition show, it is not possible to understand the emergence of the early modern world without this West African story.

Caravans of Gold calls on what archaeologists have termed "the archaeological imagination"—the act of recapturing the past through surviving traces—to present a critical rethinking of the medieval period. Here, rare and precious archaeological fragments are seen side by side, bringing new understanding to complete works of art from the medieval period.

This online workshop includes a virtual tour

of the exhibition, two interactive sessions with teachers with classroom and exhibition materials, and a scholar lecture by Professor Khaled Esseissah. The workshop is a collaboration among the education department of the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Georgetown University's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies and Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, and Howard University's Center for African Studies.

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