



Susan Cooksey
Curator of African Art
Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art

Dr. Susan Cooksey is the Curator of African Art. She manages one of the largest collections of African art in the Southeast, with works dating from 5th century B.C.E. to the 21st century. Her doctoral research was on the arts of divination in southwestern Burkina Faso, and she continues to conduct research about arts in Burkina Faso and other areas of West Africa, as well as contemporary African artists residing in Africa, Europe and the U.S.

Cooksey has curated a number of original exhibitions, including *Kongo across the Waters* (2014, a collaboration with the Royal Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren, Belgium); *Africa Interweave: Textile Diasporas* (2011); *A Sense of Place: African Interiors* (2009); *Between the Beads: Reading African Beadwork* (2008); *African Arts of Healing and Divination* (2007); *Resonance and Inspiration: New Works of Magdalene Odundo* (2006); and *Sense, Style, Presence: African Arts of Personal Adornment* (2004). Some of her publications are: *Kongo across the Waters* (2014 co-edited with Robin Poyner and Hein Vanhee); “Double Images in Win Divination and the Negotiation of Spirit-Human Identities,” in *Twins in African and Diasporan Culture*; and “Collection at the Crossroads: New Direction for the Harn Museum of Art’s African Collection,” in *Collections: A Journal for Museum Professionals*.

She is a member of the Arts Council of the African Studies Association, the African Studies Association, and she is an advisory board member for the *African Studies Quarterly Journal*, and the advisory board for the Center for African Studies, University of Florida. Cooksey received her M.F.A. in painting from the University of South Florida in 1985, and her M.A. in art history at the University of Florida in 1997. She earned her doctorate in art history, specializing in African art, from the University of Iowa in 2004.