**Fast Facts**

- *Paa Joe: Gates of No Return* features seven large-scale, painted wood architectural sculptures from Ghanaian artist and master craftsman Joseph Tetteh Ashong, also known as Paa Joe.

- The sculptures are crafted in the style of Paa Joe’s celebrated fantasy coffins and represent Gold Coast fortresses, which served as way stations for millions of Africans sold into slavery between the 16th and 19th centuries.

- The seven works selected for the exhibition are among a group of 13 models that were commissioned from Paa Joe in 2004 and 2005 by the late artist, collector and art dealer Claude Simard.

- The fortresses represented in the exhibition are Christiansborg Castle, Fort Patience, Cape Coast Castle, Fort St. Sebastian, Fort Orange, Fort Gross-Friedrichsburg and Fort St. Anthony.

- The exhibition also features archival documents and recordings that provide context for the artist’s creative process and give points of entry into the history of these charged sites, including photographs and short films.

- As the first venue in the South to present the exhibition, the High is using related programming and in-gallery information to connect Paa Joe’s sculptures with the region’s history of slavery.

- This exhibition is organized by the American Folk Art Museum.

- Katherine Jentleson is the presenting curator for the High.
Exhibition Organization and Support
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