

## INTANGIBLE HERITAGE EMBODIED

Collaborative for Cultural Heritage and Museum Practices

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

March 30-31, 2007

In 2003, UNESCO adopted a new international convention to safeguard “intangible cultural heritage,” defined as epics, tales, music, rituals, celebrations, craftsmanship, and systems of folk knowledge about medicine, astronomy and the natural world. This intangible cultural heritage is regarded by many scholars and cultural activists as vital to the well-being of traditional communities.

For a performative heritage to have and keep its effect, it must not only admit change but reinvent itself through constant iteration. Thus, there are issues of preservation and documentation as well as interpretation and the degree to which a performance today represents the values of a larger cultural identity, past or present. This workshop explores the non-material, intangible character of heritage by focusing on the human body as a vehicle for memory, movement, and sound. Among the embodied performances considered are dance, the globalization of music among diaspora communities, theater, ritual, lore, and the transmission of oral literature and its changing audiences. The workshop considers the problems (such as authenticity, intellectual property rights, supra-local interference, how to preserve something that is, by its very nature, unstable and dynamic) and possibilities (such as revival and revitalization) of implementation of the new UNESCO convention through case studies drawn from around the world.

### Keynote Address

*Kathleen Conlin* (Previous Dean, College of Fine and Applied Art, UIUC)  
“Intangible Heritage, the Performing Arts and the Paradox of Performance”

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2007

Afternoon session (2-5 p.m.) – Plym Auditorium, Temple Hoyne Buell

*Robert Graves, Dean of the College of Fine and Applied Arts*

Welcome

*Helaine Silverman*

Opening remarks

### Landscape and Space

*Janet Keller* (UIUC)

Geographies of Memory and Identity in Oceania

*Chris Fennell* (UIUC)

Terrains of African-American Accomplishment at New Philadelphia

*Anuradha Mathur* (University of Pennsylvania)

Landscape Traverses

*Michel Conan* (Dumbarton Oaks)  
The Intangible Heritage of Gardens and Landscapes: Learning from  
Hiroshima

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2007

Morning session (8:45-12:00) – Krannert Art Museum

*Kathleen Harleman, Director of the Krannert Art Museum*

Welcome

**Stories and Memory**

*Frank Salomon* (University of Wisconsin)  
Governance and Conservation of the Rapaz Khipu Heritage (co-authored  
with Renata Peters, Institute of Archaeology, University College, London)

*Raj Gandhi and Usha Gandhi* (UIUC)  
Partition Memories: The Hidden Healer (India, Pakistan)

*Joy Sather-Wagstaff* (Kent State):  
Intangible Heritage at Oklahoma City and the World Trade Center

Afternoon session (2:00-5:00) – Krannert Art Museum

**Performance and Space, Music, Language**

*Isabel Wong* (UIUC)  
Kunqu after UNESCO: A Tale of Three Cities

*Charles Capwell* (UIUC)  
Baulgan, a Journey from Religious Folksong to Intangible Heritage of  
Mankind

*Laura Graham* (University of Iowa)  
Language and Social Justice

*Lawrence Coben* (University of Pennsylvania)  
Intangible Inka Heritage: Performance and Power in the Pre-Columbian  
Andes

D. Fairchild Ruggles (UIUC)  
*Closing remarks*