

PRESS RELEASE

Major Donation Helps the Drammeh Institute to Continue Acquisitions of Records

October 21, 2011 (*Bronx, New York*) – Chantal Madio-Nurnberger, a noted antiques dealer and the first African woman collector to own and operate a successful African Art gallery in New York City, has donated three key artifacts from her collection to the Drammeh Institute which will go on display for a silent auction during the *Griots' Gate Film Festival*, Saturday, November 12, 2011 in Co-op City, New York.

Griots' Gate Film Festival is a collaborative of the Drammeh Institute and the South Africa-based film group, *Women of the Sun*, to bring a day of authentic African film and culture to the Bronx. "Chantal Madio's contribution strengthens the focus of this year's festival which acknowledges women's voices, and also supports our ongoing digitization project," said the Institute's director, Iman Drammeh. "We are very grateful to Ms. Madio for her generosity and dedication to collect treasures of the African experience."

The gift will enable the Institute to hire a surveyor and begin the next planning phase of a digital database for its film and video archive. It is estimated to take several years to catalog moving image records which number in the hundreds of hours, said Drammeh.



Donated Congolese sculpture on view.

A host of interdisciplinary researchers and others examining social and cultural themes on Africa and the Diaspora will be able to consult the Institute's resources with greater ease – including moving image collections from its partners around the world.

To view and own one of these priceless artifacts from *African Tribal Collection*, they will be on display at the *Griots' Gate Film Festival* to honor African women's perspectives during a day of film at the Dreiser Community Center, Auditorium B, in Co-op City. The program begins from 3:00PM – 10:00PM, and starts with powerful opening performances by *Medicine Women Productions*. For information contact Elise Edwards: 718-737-1976, griotsgate@gmail.com

Griots' Gate Film Festival is funded in part by the *Bronx Council on the Arts* through the *New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Program* (NYSCA) and *Riverbay Corporation* with additional support from *AfricaMovies.com*

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