

Christmas Lecture and Wine Reception

Timbuktu under threat



Professor Kevin MacDonald
Institute of Archaeology, UCL

Thursday 13th December 2012 6.30 – 8.30pm
The Gallery, 77 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ

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The lecture will explore the background behind the recent headlines on the tragic, systematic destruction of Malian heritage sites by rebel groups in Timbuktu and elsewhere. The saint's tombs which have been destroyed, together with the menaced mosques of Djingareyber, Sankore and Sidi Yahia, all recall the city's golden age in the 15th and 16th centuries. Professor MacDonald will present the long history of Timbuktu and the greater river Niger Bend region, concentrating on their involvement with the great Sahelian Empires and the trans-Saharan trade. Timbuktu's role as a remarkable centre of learning and its significant archive of scholarly manuscripts will be explored. He will also examine damage done farther afield to Dogon heritage in Douentza and threats to the built heritage of Gao. Finally, he will consider just how much is at stake in terms of immovable and movable heritage and our evolving knowledge of the history of the Middle Niger and the Niger Bend.

Prof. Kevin MacDonald has lectured at University College London since receiving his PhD in Cambridge in 1994. He was appointed to London's first ever chair in African Archaeology in 2011. His work primarily in Mali (over the 24 years) focuses on issues ranging from the peopling of the Middle Niger to cultural complexity in pastoral societies, and more recently on issues of landscape, slavery and power. He has directed fieldwork in Mauritania on Tichitt tradition settlements and in North America on colonial plantations and Creole communities. His recent books include *Slavery in Africa: Archaeology and Memory* (with Paul Lane) and *African Re-Genesis: Confronting Social Issues in the Diaspora* (with Jay Havisser).

Booking Form

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Admission:

ICOMOS-UK Members	£15
Non-Members	£18
Students	£10

Admission includes wine and festive refreshments

I would like ___ tickets for the Christmas Lecture 2012

- I enclose a cheque for £ __
 I have paid £__ online at www.icomos-uk.org/payment

Name: _____ ICOMOS-UK Member

Phone: _____ Non-Member

_____ Student

E-mail: _____