



Invitation: Public Film Screening

Wednesday, 20 May 2009, 6 pm

Future of Mud: a Tale of Houses and Lives in Djenne

Directed by Susan Vogel
 Co-produced by Trevor Marchand (SOAS), Susan Vogel (Columbia University) and Samuel Sidibé (National Museum of Mali)
 Bambara/French/English, English subtitles
 Distributed by First Run / Icarus Films, New York 2007

Venue:

Conference Hall
 Zentrum Moderner Orient
 Kirchweg 33

14129 Berlin

With an introduction and commentary by anthropologist Trevor Marchand

For centuries, Djenné's architecture has been sculpted and renewed by the town's masons. Mud bricks and secret incantations combine to make houses, and each year the majestic mosque is dressed with a fine new coating of mud. Konmusa is heir to this masonry tradition and he plans for his son to succeed him in the trade. But classroom education and connections to a globalizing world deliver new opportunities and lifestyles, and continuity is threatened. Grounded in Trevor Marchand's anthropological research, the film explores the challenges and choices faced by a mason's family and raises important questions about heritage and changing traditions. In addition to the film's documentary content, the technique of blending fact and fiction in the service of 'truth' raises a number of compelling issues.



GEFÖRDERT VOM



Bundesministerium
 für Bildung
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Trevor Marchand is Senior Lecturer in Anthropology at SOAS, University of London, where he teaches the anthropology of architecture. Initially trained as an architect, he has conducted fieldwork with masons in Yemen and Mali, and is currently studying training and practice among English woodworkers. His research focuses on embodied cognition and communication. He is author of *Minaret Building and Apprenticeship in Yemen* (RoutledgeCurzon, 2001) and *The Masons of Djenné* (Indiana University Press, 2009).

The official teaser on youtube.com:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vkxju6aoZw>