



Tea and Talks on Nigerian Archaeology

Thursday April 3rd 2025 @ 3pm

SPR 1 Lecture Theatre



Uwagbale Edward Ekpu is a researcher from Benin City, Nigeria. Uwagbale has recently been working with the archaeology team at the Museum of West African Art (MOWAA) excavation projects in and around Benin City. In this short talk, Uwagbale will give us an update on the recent fieldwork (<https://wearemowaa.org/the-mowaa-archaeology-project/>). Uwagbale has also co-curated the new Benin Kingdom display on the 1st floor of the Pitt Rivers Museum galleries and is in Oxford to do more research on the Benin Kingdom objects (<https://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/kingdom-benin>).



Dr Ferdinand Saumarez Smith is Director of Factum Foundation London. Factum Foundation for Digital Technology in Preservation was established with the aim of using Factum Arte's innovative processes and technologies for preservation, education, and the dissemination of cultural heritage. Factum has recently been working with collaborators to replicate the famous 9th century Igbo-Ukwu bronzes, first discovered in Nigeria in the 1930's, then more extensively excavated in the late 1950s and early 1960s (<https://factumfoundation.org/our-projects/digitisation/the-igbo-ukwu-bronzes/>). In this short talk and demonstration, Ferdinand will share with us the replicas of the Igbo-Ukwu bronzes and talk about the work being done to produce facsimiles of archaeological objects such as the Igbo-Ukwu bronzes when the originals are inaccessible to local communities.