September 6, 2018

The Textile Society of America is pleased to announce the winner of the 2017 R.L. Shep Ethnic Textile Book award:

*Art, Honor, Ridicule: Fante Asafo Flags from Southern Ghana*

*by Silvia Forni and Doran H. Ross*

Royal Ontario Museum & Fowler Museum at UCLA, 2017

*Art, Honor, Ridicule: Fante Asafo Flags from Southern Ghana* makes outstanding scholarly contributions to a rich tradition of textile creativity in Africa, known mainly for its iconographic imagery linked to oral knowledge and its bold design executed in vivid colors. Based on decades of research, this work for the first time identifies and recognizes the individual artists and workshops who design and make the flags, the sensibilities and long history that inform their making and innovations to the present day, as well as the flags’ deep cultural meanings for wider communities. At the same time, the compelling writing and illustrations, and overall beautiful production, make the work highly appealing to broad audiences.

Twenty-three works were nominated for the 2017 R.L. Shep Award, representing the tremendous variety of textiles and textile approaches embraced by TSA, and the growing passion for cloth across many fields. In addition to the winning book, the committee wishes to recognize another title for its originality and scope of research — *African Print Fashion Now*, Suzanne Gott et al., editors (Fowler Museum at UCLA). It was a challenging task to determine the winner among so many outstanding publications. Details of the nominated books were featured in the *Textile Society of America Newsletter*, Volume 30, Number 1 (Spring 2018). Reviews of the two above books will feature in upcoming numbers of the *TSA Newsletter*.

Given annually to a publication judged to be the best book in the field of ethnic textile studies, the R.L. Shep Award consists of a cash prize funded by an endowment established by R.L. Shep in 2000. The purpose of this award is to encourage the study and understanding of textile traditions by recognizing and rewarding exceptional scholarship.

For further information about the award or to nominate a book for the 2018 Shep Award, please visit: https://textilesocietyofamerica.org/programs/awards-scholarships/shep/

The 2017 R.L. Shep Ethnic Textile Book Award committee:

- Dr. Sarah Fee, 2017 Shep Committee Chair
  Curator, Royal Ontario Museum
- Dr. Eulanda A. Sanders
  Professor and Chair, Donna R. Danielson Professor in Textiles and Clothing
  Department of Apparel, Events and Hospitality Management, Iowa State University
- Roy Hamilton
  Research Associate and retired Curator, University of California