

Recap of Let's Talk Tours gathering June 5, 2019

- Mysteries Tour from Anna Bethune (grades 5-8)
- Hidden Messages Tour from Karen Kletter
- New In The Galleries - Reliquary Figure (and related objects - reliquaries, ancestors, votives)
- Gallery Activities from Teaching Critical Thinking through Art with the National Gallery of Art
- book suggestion: Silence of the Girls by Pat Barker - retelling of the Iliad from a feminist viewpoint
- YouTube suggestion: The Lost Rembrandt <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytkFUscKe5A>
- Was Rembrandt inspired by Caravaggio's David with the Head of Goliath??? You decide!

Mysteries of the Museum Tour contributed by Anna Bethune

document will be posted on IPE website under Peer Sharing - Let's Talk Tours and at the end of this document

Hidden Messages contributed by Karen Kletter

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New In The Galleries!

Gallery Label: Imagine this guardian figure as it was made to be used: fastened to a basket containing skulls and other bones of important ancestors, which is guarded. On one side, a stylized face topped by a half-moon hairdo is covered by shiny sheets of brass and copper. The metal was not merely visually attractive; it was designed to please the ancestors and deflect negative forces. On the other side, a mask-shaped head has traces of white kaolin powder, the color of the spirits.

Check out this image from the Ross Archive of African Images at Yale University that is on the gallery label.

Or someday see this one (not on view) on artsmia.org

Mbulu Ngulu, 19th century

Kota

Wood and copper

GIFT OF THE NORTHERN STAR FOUNDATION 72.70.1

And for more check out Khan Academy and a discussion of the Kota at Boston's Museum of Fine Art.

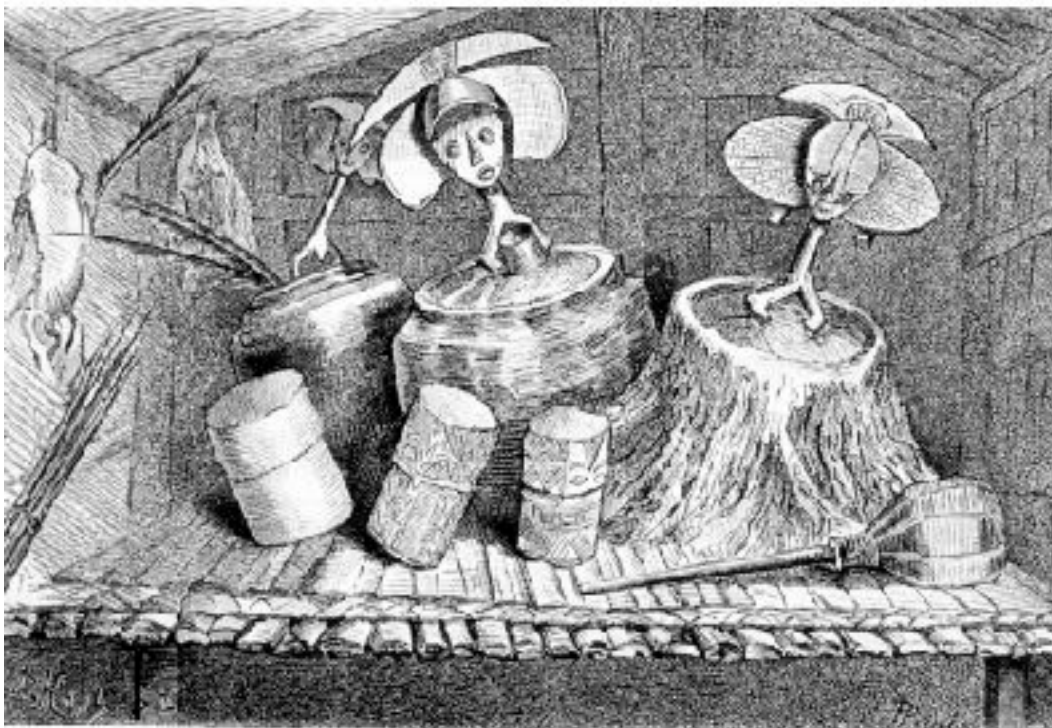
<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-africa/central-africa/gabon-art/v/kota-reliquary>

- served as an ornament to a basket holding the relics of a family. - [Steven] Specifically bones of a family member. - [Kathryn] People in this region were slash and burn farmers. They would clear land for planting and after five to seven years, the land would no longer be fertile and the community would move to new farming lands. And for that reason you didn't have access to your ancestor's graves so it made sense to take some small part of beloved family members with you when you moved to a new place. Families who were using these reliquary baskets, like people using reliquaries around the world, felt that that tangible connection to an ancestor helped them connect to that ancestor in prayer across the divide of the living and the dead
- idealized representation of a male figure on one side and of a female on the other in 3% of figures

- this diamond shaped lozenge would've been sunk into a reliquary basket
- We call these Kota objects but in fact, they were not made by the Kota people, they were made in an area where the Kota people lived but by peoples that surround them.



Reliquary figure, late 1800s
L2017.12B



- when they presented them in Europe, they presented them as evidence of a savage or a debased faith.
Group suggestions of additional reliquaries, honoring ancestors, votives

1. **Untitled, 1991**, Ernest Whiteman; Steel, neon; 92.140

2. **Head of a Woman, 1938**, Joan Miró; Oil on canvas; 64.44.1

1. Miro often includes eyes in his paintings; they are watching you!

From Jim Allen: http://www.ipevolunteers.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Miro_Head%20of%20a%20Woman_64.44.1.pdf

3. Fun Fact: Miro created a mural, El Segador (The Reaper) that hung next to Picasso's Guernica at the 1939 Paris Exposition.



EL SEGADOR (THE REAPER), JOAN MIRO



2. fun Miro fact: **He created a tapestry for World Trade Center in New York**

Joan Miro, The World Trade Center Tapestry, destroyed

In 1974, Miró created a tapestry for the World Trade Center in New York City together with the Catalan artist Josep Royo. He had initially refused to do a tapestry, then he learned the craft from Royo and the two artists produced several works together. His World Trade Center Tapestry was displayed at the building and was one of the most expensive works of art lost during the September 11 attacks. The work was an abstract design, with bright blocks of colour, red, green, blue and yellow, with black elements and a light brown background. Made of wool and hemp, it measured 20 × 35 feet (6.1 × 10.7 m) and weighed 4 tonnes

3. **Crossroads Marker with Little Hand, Reaching, 2015**, Renée Stout
Metal, glass, wood, pigments, other materials; 2016.2

4. **Kunin Portrait Gallery** - ask your group “Which would you like to meet?” and “Which style would you choose for your portrait?”

5. **Camp Monet** - third floor Target Wing

6. **Vessel, mid 20th century**; Ga’anda; Terracotta; 2015.64.1; G236
Societies in northeastern Nigeria make vessels to represent, embody, and contain spirit forces. Sacred ceramics are used in ancestor worship, healing the sick, protecting hunters, identifying thieves, and more generally for ensuring agricultural success and community well-being. This elegant pot represents the spirit Ngum-Ngumi, a culture hero who led the Ga’anda peoples in their migration from the east and continues to protect them. The vessel is delicately humanized, with arms, breasts, a navel, and designs of body scarification.

This object could also be used on the Hidden Messages Tour



VESSEL, 2015.64.1

7. **Power Figure 2014.46.2** - fashioned from dirt from the graves of ancestors

Gallery Activities

1. Providence Room and Trade Routes

- Used with 4th graders
- divide students into 5 groups
- have one student read the description of the Room's History
- make five index cards one for each 'place'
 - North America
 - South America
 - Europe
 - Africa
 - West Indies
- each card had two columns; one for IMPORTS and one for EXPORTS
- Have groups explore and fill in as many trade items as they can discover for their 'place'
- Move to G350 and have each group share their findings
- make connections between places; imports; exports (Like Where IS West Indies???)

2. **See, Think, Wonder** used with Rose B. Simpson's Maria, 2014 HoOP Exhibit

3. **Nouns, Adjectives, Verbs** - used with Portrait of George Washington 32.12 with 4th graders

4. **The Elaboration Game** - haven't tried this yet.



**DAVID WITH THE HEAD OF GOLIATH,
CARRAVAGIO**



LUCRETIA BY REMBRANDT