Collection Overview

Repository: Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title: Exhibition Records
Identifier: Accession 12-375
Date: 1981-2011
Extent: 17 cu. ft. (17 record storage boxes)
Language: Language of Materials: English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation
Curatorial, Exhibition Records

Use Restriction
Restricted for 15 years, until Jan-01-2027; Transferring office; 4/18/2012 memorandum, Yowell
to Monsted; Contact reference staff for details.

Descriptive Entry

This accession documents closed, denied, and unfinished exhibitions at the National Museum of African
Art (NMAfA). These records contain correspondence, research, notes, checklists, label texts, brochures,
floor plans and designs, clippings, loan information, photographs, slides, transparencies, and negatives.
Some materials are in electronic format.

Exhibitions documented in this accession include "Traditional Costumery and Jewelry in Africa;"
"Traditional Costumes and Jewelry of Egypt;" "Life Afterlife: African Funerary Sculpture;" "The Stranger
Among Us;" "African Emblems of Status;" "From the Earth: African Ceramic Art;" "African Islam;"
"African Mankala;" "Patterns and Forms;" "Praise Poems: The Katherine White Collection;" "African
Masterpieces from the Musée de l'Homme;" "History, Context and Materials: Selections from the
Permanent Collection of the National Museum of African Art;" "The Rising of a New Moon: A Century of
Tabwa Art;" "A Human Ideal in African Art: Bamana Figurative Sculpture;" "Patterns of Life: West African
Strip-Weaving Traditions;" "African Art in the Cycle of Life;" "Objects of Use;" "The Permanent Collection
of the National Museum of African Art;" "Images of Power and Identity;" "Images from Bamum: German
Colonial Photography at the Court of King Njoya, Cameroon, West Africa, 1902-1915;" "Shoowa Design:
Raffia Textiles from Zaire;" "Kalabari Ancestral Screens: Levels of Meaning;" "Echoes of the Kalabari:
Sculpture by Sokari Douglas Camp;" "Gold of Africa: Jewelry and Ornaments from Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire,
Mali and Senegal;" "Sounding Forms: African Musical Instruments;" "The Essential Gourd;" "Icons:
Ideals and Power in the Art of Africa;" "Yoruba: Nine Centuries of African Art and Thought;" "African

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**Names and Subject Terms**

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

**Subjects:**
- Art museums
- Art, African
- Museum exhibits

**Types of Materials:**
- Black-and-white negatives
- Black-and-white photographs
- Brochures
- Clippings
Color negatives
Color photographs
Color transparencies
Compact discs
Digital versatile discs
Electronic records
Floor plans
Floppy disks
Manuscripts

Names:

A Brave New World (Exhibition) (2010-2012: Washington, D.C.)
Artful Animals (Exhibition) (2009-2010: Washington, D.C.)
BIG/small (Exhibition) (2006: Washington, D.C.)
Face of the Spirits: Masks from the Zaire Basin (Exhibition) (1994: Washington, D.C.)
Gold of Africa: Jewelry and Ornaments from Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali and Senegal (Exhibition) (1989: Washington, D.C.)
Insights (Exhibition) (2004: Washington, D.C.)
Olowe of Ise: A Yoruba Sculptor to Kings (Exhibition) (1998: Washington, D.C.)
Patterns and Forms (Exhibition) (1984: Washington, D.C.)
Playful Performers (Exhibition) (2004: Washington, D.C.)
The Last Supper Revisited (Exhibition) (2002: Washington, D.C.)
The Stranger Among Us (Exhibition) (1982: Washington, D.C.)
Traditional Costumery and Jewelry in Africa (Exhibition) (1981: Washington, D.C.)
Traditional Costumes and Jewelry of Egypt (Exhibition) (1981: Washington, D.C.)
Treasures II (Exhibition) (2008: Washington, D.C.)
Yinka Shonibare MBE (Exhibition) (2010: Washington, D.C.)
Container Listing

Box 1

Closed Exhibitions

"Traditional Costumery and Jewelry in Africa" and "Traditional Costumes and Jewelry of Egypt," 1981

Box 1 of 17
Notes, exhibit text, insurance values


Box 1 of 17
Object texts/labels; budget; loans; schedule of programs; exhibit outline

"The Stranger Among Us," 1982

Box 1 of 17
Exhibition proposal/exhibit texts; loan receipts/lists/requests; object pictures/labels; background research

Box 1 of 17
Object pictures/labels; publicity


Box 1 of 17
Part I - Achievement; Part II - Status (A-C)

Box 1 of 17
Part II - Status (C-D)

"From the Earth: African Ceramic Art," 1982-1983

Box 1 of 17
Exhibition agreement; American Museum of Natural History; Arnett; Bresler; Hersey; Hirshhorn; Jacobs; Metropolitan Museum of Art; NMAA Gift Shop; National Museum of Natural History; Nooter; Salan; University Museum, University of Pennsylvania; Virginia Museum of Fine Arts; Wright; object photocopies

Box 1 of 17
Borrowed object list; object pictures/exhibit texts/labels; miscellaneous


Box 1 of 17
Lists; object labels/captions; loan requests, invoices, agreements, etc./photograph requests; miscellaneous

"African Mankala," 1984

Box 1 of 17
Checklist

"Patterns and Forms (Works from the Permanent Collection)," 1984
Box 1 of 17  Exhibit plans; object labels/photographs; docent tour notes; miscellaneous (including press, bibliography)

"Praise Poems: The Katherine White Collection (Pan-African Art Exhibition)," 1984-1985

Box 1 of 17  Checklists; object photographs/labels/texts; correspondence; publicity/press

"African Masterpieces from the Musee de l'Homme," 1985

Box 1 of 17  Paris - Press clippings

Box 1 of 17  Paris

Box 1 of 17  Paris - Labels


Box 1 of 17  Exhibit texts (including for docents); memoranda/correspondence re: objects, loans; object pictures/labels/lists; docent training information; publicity/press (2 folders)

"The Rising of a New Moon: A Century of Tabwa Art," 1986

Box 1 of 17  Correspondence with University of Michigan Museum of Art; object photographs/identifications; object labels/texts

Box 1 of 17  Memoranda/correspondence; brochure information; background research; teacher's guide; photocopied pictures; production schedule; visitor comments; publicity/press

"A Human Ideal in African Art: Bamana Figurative Sculpture," 1986

Box 1 of 17  Exhibit texts; lender list; budget; curriculum vitae (Ezra; McNaughton); object photographs

Box 2


Box 2 of 17  Object labels; de-installation notes; exhibit plans


Box 2 of 17  Polaroid photographs; object labels; proposal; insurance values


Box 2 of 17  Memoranda/correspondence; object labels

Box 2 of 17
- Object photos/lists

Box 2 of 17
- Object labels (4 folders)

"Images from Bamum: German Colonial Photography at the Court of King Njoya, Cameroon, West Africa, 1902-1915," 1988

Box 2 of 17
- Memoranda/correspondence; exhibit plans; slide show script/presentation; publicity/press; object list; object photographs/labels

"Shoowa Design: Raffia Textiles from Zaire," 1988

Box 2 of 17
- Review; exhibit texts/labels; object photographs

Box 2 of 17
- Object photographs (2 folders)

Box 2 of 17
- Labels

Box 2 of 17
- Correspondence and memoranda


Box 2 of 17
- Exhibit text; installation photographs


Box 2 of 17
- Exhibit text

"Gold of Africa: Jewelry and Ornaments from Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali and Senegal," 1989

Box 2 of 17
- Object list; object photographs

Box 3


Box 3 of 17
- Object photographs/identifications (3 folders)

Box 3 of 17
- Memoranda/correspondence re: loans/mounts/conservation/etc.; checklists

Box 3 of 17
- Checklists; memoranda/correspondence

Box 3 of 17
- Exhibit plans; object photographs; exhibit texts; publicity/press; miscellaneous; lender file

Box 3 of 17
"Exhibition Book"

Box 3 of 17
Publicity/press; exhibition agreement; memoranda/miscellaneous information/correspondence; inventory/loan lists; exhibit texts


Box 3 of 17
Object photographs/identifications/lists (2 folders)

Box 3 of 17
Object photographs/identifications/lists; slides


Box 3 of 17
Exhibit plans; price list; correspondence (re: loans, book, exhibit, etc.); information on tours, etc.; exhibition agreement; checklists/object lists; video notes; pictures/object information/labels

Box 4

Box 4 of 17
Exhibit texts/object labels/maps

Box 4 of 17
Publicity/press; praise; miscellaneous (including photos)

Box 4 of 17
Object photographs/notes (2 folders)


Box 4 of 17
Preview invitation

"Africa Illustrated: Fantasy and Reality before 1900," 1991

Box 4 of 17
Exhibit texts/photographs/lists

Box 4 of 17
Visitor comments/questions; labels/texts; memoranda/correspondence; background research; pictures/identifications; publicity/press

Box 4 of 17
Labels/texts

Box 4 of 17
Exhibition brochure/labels; news clipping

"Art of the Personal Object," 1991

Box 4 of 17
Exhibit text


Box 4 of 17
Exhibition proposal; exhibit text/object photographs/lists
Box 4 of 17  
Texts/photographs/lists  

Box 4 of 17  
Exhibit plans; memoranda; didactics; correspondence; background research; negatives; pictures

Box 4 of 17  
Pictures/texts/slides; memoranda; purchase recommendation; exhibit plans; pictures/photographs

"New Dimensions: Selections from the Contemporary Collection," 1992

Box 4 of 17  
Recent Acquisitions/New Dimensions


Box 4 of 17  
Correspondence/memoranda/loan information; object checklists; references

Box 5

Box 5 of 17  
Labels

Box 5 of 17  
Public Comments

Box 5 of 17  
Cloth of the Great Handout


Box 5 of 17  
Object lists with pictures; object photographs/texts

Box 5 of 17  
Object photographs/texts


Box 5 of 17  
Object labels; exhibit texts; publicity/press; visitor comments; objects/lists; background research; photographs/pictures; memoranda/correspondence

"Face of the Spirits: Masks from the Zaire Basin," 1994

Box 5 of 17  
Schedules; correspondence/comments; event announcements; publicity/press

"Beaded Splendor," 1994

Box 5 of 17  
Labels; object list; schedule; correspondence (including loans)/memoranda; object pictures/identifications; exhibit outlines; miscellaneous
"Mohammad Omer Khalil, Etchings; Amir I. M. Nour, Sculpture," 1994-1995

Box 5 of 17
Press release


Box 5 of 17
Venue list; exhibit plans; cartography/linguistic background of Nubia; object pictures/labels

Box 5 of 17
Object pictures/labels

Box 5 of 17
Photographs/labels; exhibit texts/bibliographies; education materials; publicity/press

Box 5 of 17
Background research; Polaroid photographs


Box 5 of 17
Object lists/miscellaneous lists; correspondence with Museum of Fine Arts (Boston); publicity/press; exhibition agreement; exhibition texts/labels/photographs

Box 5 of 17
Object photographs

Box 5 of 17
Background research; exhibit plans; photographs, etc.; loan information; education materials (including docent training and tours)

Box 6


Box 6 of 17
Correspondence, exhibit text, research


Box 6 of 17
Conservation Reports - Individual

Box 6 of 17
Correspondence

Box 6 of 17
Textiles - Arkilla jenngo

Box 6 of 17
Information sheets

Box 6 of 17
Kerr invoice

Box 6 of 17
Maps

Box 6 of 17
Material list - Kerr pieces

Box 6 of 17
Photographs from NMAfA Archives
Box 6 of 17  Purchase recommendation

Box 6 of 17  Tuareg scholars

Box 6 of 17  Conservation report - Summary

Box 6 of 17  Tuareg collections

Box 6 of 17  Collection from R. Kerr information

Box 6 of 17  Notes - Outside scholars

Box 6 of 17  Tuareg exhibitions

Box 6 of 17  Labels

Box 6 of 17  Miscellaneous


Box 6 of 17  Exhibition texts (labels?); correspondence; bibliographies; background research

Box 6 of 17  Purchase recommendation; exhibit plans; photographs/pictures

Box 6 of 17  Baga labels

Box 6 of 17  Baga exhibition

Box 6 of 17  Map exploration, Baga

Box 6 of 17  Baga - Conservation

Box 6 of 17  Audience comments

"Crowning Achievements: African Arts of Dressing the Head," 1996

Box 6 of 17  Object pictures/identifications (for Galleries 1-10B)

Box 6 of 17  Conservation memorandum; background research (including annotated bibliography, list); object photographs/identifications

Box 6 of 17  Object photographs/identifications; photographs added by NMAfa


Box 6 of 17  Slides; catalogue (including list and labels); exhibition texts; receipt for video

Box 6 of 17  University of California, Santa Barbara

Box 6 of 17  University Art Museum, University of California, Santa Barbara
"Adire: Resist-Dyed Cloths of the Yoruba," 1997

Box 6 of 17
Press; proposal; label copy with photographs; images

"Treasures from Tervuren: Selections from the Belgian Royal Museum for Central Africa," 1997

Box 6 of 17
Publicity/press; notes/memoranda/correspondence/travel arrangements; background research; exhibit plans

Box 6 of 17
Exhibition agreement; education materials; guest list; handwritten notes/visitor comments; slides/slide notes; object lists; timeline; exhibition texts; Tervuren booklet

Box 7

Box 7 of 17
Photographs/photograph labels; object labels; budget information; exhibition notes; correspondence/memoranda; miscellaneous (including pamphlets from other museums)


Box 7 of 17
Labels, brochure

Box 7 of 17
Loan forms

Box 7 of 17
Notes


Box 7 of 17
Labels

"A Spiral of History: A Carved Tusk from the Loango Coast, Congo," 1998

Box 7 of 17
Research/wall/brochure text

Box 7 of 17
Photos

Box 7 of 17
Kongo Ivories

Box 7 of 17
Kongo ivory tusk - Loango Coast

"Olowe of Ise: A Yoruba Sculptor to Kings," 1998

Box 7 of 17
Preview invitation

Box 7 of 17  
Object photographs/slides; labels; loan information; correspondence; exhibit plans; background research; publicity

Box 7 of 17  
Correspondence

"Baule: African Art/Western Eyes," 1999

Box 7 of 17  
Checklists; exhibit plans; correspondence; object photographs/identifications/background

Box 7 of 17  
Object photographs/identifications/background

Box 7 of 17  
Design/layout; lists; label copy; schedule; correspondence; memoranda; exhibition contract; exhibit folder

Box 7 of 17  
Baule miscellaneous

"Hats Off! A Salute to African Headwear," 1999

Box 7 of 17  
Object labels/photographs; detail report; schedule; photograph list; educational activities; exhibit plans; correspondence re: slides/prints


Box 7 of 17  
Labels

Box 7 of 17  
Object photographs/identifications

Box 8

Box 8 of 17  
Object photographs/identifications (4 folders)

Box 8 of 17  
Object photographs/identifications; publicity/press

Box 8 of 17  
Newark Museum packet; Newark Museum correspondence/lists/texts/programs; exhibit text draft; lists; activity/community room notes; memoranda/correspondence; exhibit texts; exhibit plans

Box 8 of 17  
Exhibit labels/texts; activity room texts; photocopied pictures; miscellaneous (including correspondence, eBay printouts, etc.)

Box 8 of 17  

Box 8 of 17  
Object labels; texts; object identifications/photographs

Box 8 of 17  
Susanne Wenger photographs; lists; notes on meetings; correspondence; conservation; education program script; exhibit plans; publicity; background research

Box 8 of 17  
Oshogbo notebook
Box 8 of 17  Correspondence; loan documents; object lists
Box 8 of 17  Layout; text; research
Box 8 of 17  Panel illustrations/text; handling/installation instructions; crate information; correspondence

Box 9
Box 9 of 17  Money: Maps
Box 9 of 17  Money: Photographs
Box 9 of 17  Money: Lenders
Box 9 of 17  Money: Objects in Exhibition
Box 9 of 17  Money: Didactics
Box 9 of 17  Money: Brochure
Box 9 of 17  Money: Bibliography
Box 9 of 17  Money: Research Towards (2 folders)
Box 9 of 17  Lists, etc.
Box 9 of 17  "Transatlantic Dialogue: Contemporary Art In and Out of Africa," 2000
Box 9 of 17  Object labels/photos
Box 9 of 17  Comment sheets; lists
Box 9 of 17  Detail report; exhibit plans; checklists; exhibition contract; press release; photographer order form; notes on meetings; schedule; correspondence; miscellaneous
Box 9 of 17  Object labels/list/photos; borrowing/loan agreements; notes on meetings; object list; schedule; publicity
Box 9 of 17  Visitor comment sheets; correspondence; layout; text; miscellaneous
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Press release, press (including article re: "Encounters with the Contemporary")

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"In the Presence of Spirits: African Art from the National Museum of Ethnology, Lisbon," 2001

Box 9 of 17
Object list; object labels/photographs

Box 9 of 17
Object labels/photographs

Box 9 of 17
Object labels/photographs; exhibit guide/layout; family guide; exhibition contract; gift agreement; proposal; miscellaneous (including Museum for African Art information, publicity)

Box 9 of 17
"Making the Grade: Arts of Initiation," 2001-2002

Box 9 of 17
Texts; plans; objects; research; miscellaneous

Box 9 of 17

Box 9 of 17
Press/publicity; object lists; conservation notes; layout; pictures of objects; correspondence; text

Box 9 of 17
"The Last Supper Revisited," 2002

Box 9 of 17
Stanford University Alumni Expedition packet

Box 9 of 17
"Gifts and Blessings: The Textile Arts of Madagascar," 2002

Box 9 of 17
Information on Field Museum visit; exhibit proposal; photographs

Box 10

Box 10 of 17
Contents of Master Book (2 folders)

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Research (2 folders)

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Texts

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Press coverage/web

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Honorarium documents; book correspondence

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Image loans

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Object loans (2 folders)

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Research, reports, object lists, memoranda

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Textile Images (color scans)

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Receipts
Box 10 of 17  Madagascar hard copy images
Box 10 of 17  Reviews, etc.
Box 10 of 17  "A Personal Journey: Central African Art from the Lawrence Gussman Collection," 2002
Box 10 of 17  Philbrook Museum information; exhibit plans/layout; music selections; object list/values; correspondence (including re: conservation/mounting); object identifications/labels; section texts; exhibition contract; Gussman biography
Box 10 of 17  "Ethiopian Passages: Dialogues in the Diaspora," 2003
Box 10 of 17  Object labels/photographs; booklet

Box 11
Box 11 of 17  "The Fabric of Moroccan Life," 2003
Box 11 of 17  Slides; invitation to Indianapolis show; layout/design; exhibit text with images; correspondence; Indianapolis Museum of Art documents (2 folders)
Box 11 of 17  Moroccan holdings, NMAfA
Box 11 of 17  Moroccan exhibition labels
Box 11 of 17  Moroccan exhibition objects
Box 11 of 17  Moroccan proposals for exhibition
Box 11 of 17  Moroccan websites
Box 11 of 17  Moroccan exhibition contract
Box 11 of 17  Moroccan correspondence
Box 11 of 17  Moroccan exhibition events
Box 11 of 17  "InSights," 2004
Box 11 of 17  InSights
Box 11 of 17  "Playful Performers," 2004
Box 11 of 17  Lists/notes/education materials
Box 11 of 17  "Treasures," 2004-2005
Box 11 of 17  Press
Box 11 of 17  "TEXTures: Word and Symbol in Contemporary African Art," 2005
Exhibit plans/layout; object list with images; proposal
Kellog: Education programs
Education/public programs
Press release
Kellogg Grant
"Where Gods and Mortals Meet: Continuity and Renewal in Urhobo Art," 2005
Object labels/photographs
Object labels/photographs; installation photos; lists; music selections; script; press
Exhibit text; Museum for African Art (MfAA) pitch; schedule; layout/design; crate list; correspondence; contract
Labels
Exhibition
Exhibition checklist
Press; wall text; docent text
"BIG/small," 2006
Clippings; education; wall text and label copy; checklist; floor plan; visitor study
Press
"Body of Evidence," 2006-2008
Object lists
Wall text and label copy
Clippings; text
Checklist; press; correspondence; floor plan; miscellaneous
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Box 12 of 17  Object photographs/text; design plan
Box 12 of 17  "First Look: The Walt Disney-Tishman African Art Collection," 2006
Box 12 of 17  Press; text; object list
Box 12 of 17  Wall text and label copy; press
Box 12 of 17  Clippings; correspondence; object photographs
Box 12 of 17  Exhibit; correspondence
Box 12 of 17  Press
Box 12 of 17  Exhibit opening
Box 12 of 17  Visitor comments
Box 12 of 17  Tour
Box 12 of 17  "Inscribing Meaning: Writing and Graphic Systems in African Art," 2007
Box 12 of 17  Design layout; text; miscellaneous
Box 12 of 17  Correspondence with artists
Box 12 of 17  Fundraising; budget
Box 12 of 17  Loans
Box 12 of 17  Fowler Museum of Cultural History collaboration
Box 12 of 17  Loans (2 folders)
Box 12 of 17  Rachid Koraichi correspondence
Box 12 of 17  Ghada Amer/Gagosian Gallery
Box 12 of 17  Brooklyn Museum of Art
Box 12 of 17  Images - Ways of Knowing, Inscribing Identity: The Body
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<td>Loan Files (7 folders)</td>
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<td>Images - Sarah Brett-Smith (2 folders)</td>
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<td>&quot;Encompassing the Globe: Portugal and the World in the 16th and 17th Centuries,&quot; 2007</td>
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Box 13 of 17  Republic of Benin - Portuguese fort of San Joao Baptista de Ajuda
Box 13 of 17  Benin Kingdom - Foreign figures on ivories; meeting of second cultures
Box 13 of 17  Kongo Kingdom - Portuguese objects
Box 13 of 17  Portuguese - Monopoly in Africa, Ghana; Influence - carnivals
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Box 13 of 17  Kongo - European collection - High-status caps; ivory horn
Box 13 of 17  Angola - Kongo - Art - History
Box 13 of 17  Portuguese inspired African art (19th-20th centuries)
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Box 13 of 17  Imaging Otherness in Ivories: African Portrayals of the Portuguese ca. 1492
Box 13 of 17  European representations in African art

Box 14

Box 14 of 17  Objects - photographs and identifications (includes electronic records)
Box 14 of 17  Scripts (includes electronic records)
Box 14 of 17  Exhibition binder (2 folders)
Box 14 of 17  "El Anatsui: Gawu," 2008
Box 14 of 17 Proposal; correspondence; photos and slides; text
Box 14 of 17 Text; brochure; design; object list; images
Box 14 of 17 "Treasures 2008" and "Treasures II," 2008
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Brochures; images; check list; correspondence; wall text; budget; press; design

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Press; labels; budget; correspondence

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Design; images; clippings; floor plans (includes electronic records)

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"Paul Emmanuel: Transitions," 2010

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Clippings; press; proposal; design; floor plans; press

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"A Brave New World," 2010-2011

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Brochure; wall text; object labels

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Denied/Unfinished Exhibitions

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All that Glitters: The Splendor of African Jewelry

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Objects (2 folders)

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Objects and lists

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Suzanne Gott

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African jewelry workshop

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Defining jewelry
Exhibition Records
https://siarchives.si.edu/collections/siris_arc_309972

Box 16 of 17  Exhibition planning
Box 16 of 17  Donna Pido Collection
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Box 16 of 17  Noel Jewelry Collection
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Box 16 of 17  Vigilant Things: Yoruba aale and the antithesis of beauty (David Doris)
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Box 16 of 17  Julie Mehretu: City Sitings - Detroit Institute of Arts
Box 16 of 17  Fact sheet; checklist

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Box 17 of 17  Through African Eyes: The European in African Art, 1500 to the Present - Detroit Institute of Arts
Box 17 of 17  Proposal; object list; fact sheet (includes electronic records)
Box 17 of 17  West African Fashion: The Dressmaking Arts of Ghana
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Alfred Metraux: From Fieldwork to Human Rights - National Museum of Natural History

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Masquerades and Metaphors: The Figurative Impulse in Modern Nigerian Art - Sylvester Ogbechie

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My Heart Stands in the Hill: Memories from the land of the IXam (San Rock Art)

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Natural Beauties and Artful Imitations: Skeuomorphs in African Art

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Urban Impressions: South African artists and the city; Recycled Remnants: Found objects in the NMAfA contemporary collection; Domestic Spaces

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Body Art: Marks of Identity

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