



STATE OF THE
**AFRICAN
DIASPORA®**



INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR HERITAGE & CULTURE

HERITAGE & RECONQUEST

A CLASS ACTION

Presented by
Keturah Amoako, Kandake Houindokon, Vice Prime Minister
SOAD, ICHC



EARLY REPORTS FROM TRAVELERS TO AFRICA, SUCH AS THE ENGLISHMAN THOMAS FOXWELL BUXTON, DEPICTED AFRICANS AS IGNORANT, SUPERSTITIOUS, AND BARBARIC,

AFRICANS WERE REGARDED AS UNABLE TO GOVERN THEMSELVES, NEEDING THE OVERSIGHT OF MORE MATURE RACES

THESE ATTITUDES EVEN THOUGH UNSPOKEN TODAY, COULD BE, IN SOME WAY OR ANOTHER, STILL IN EFFECT, BY VIRTUE THAT WESTERN INSTITUTIONS BELIEVE THAT AFRICANS AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES CANNOT TAKE CARE OF THEIR OWN PROPERTY, WHICH STANDS AS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY THEY REFUSE TO RETURN OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE.



**WHAT COULD BE HAPPENING WHEN CULTURAL
TREASURES ARE NOT RETURNED**

A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER

SOTHEBY'S

The illicit trade in antiquities

Sotheby's

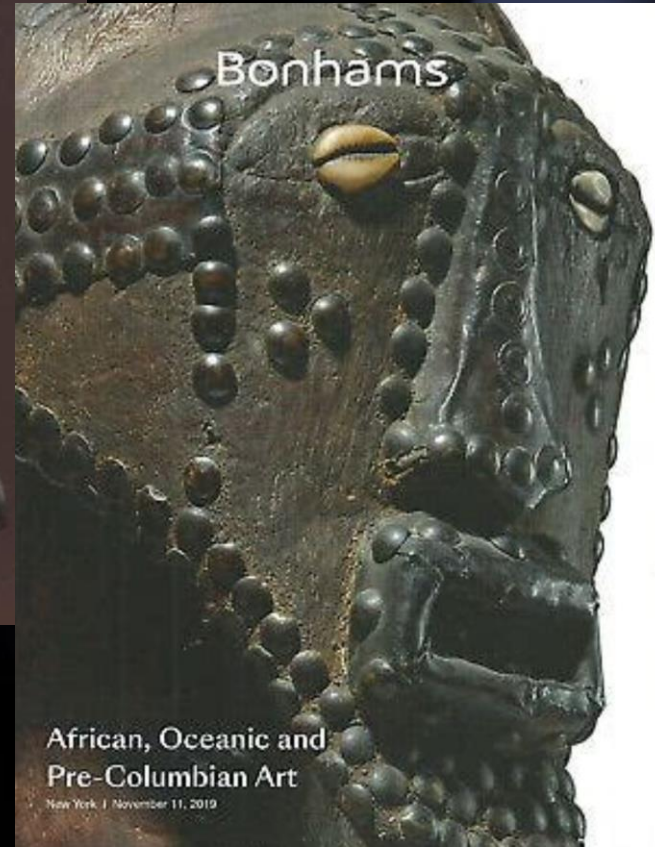
AFRICAN, OCEANIC AND PRE-COLUMBIAN ART
INCLUDING PROPERTY OF THE ALBRIGHT-KNOX ART GALLERY



NEW YORK MAY 17, 2007

BONHAMS

Bonhams



African, Oceanic and
Pre-Columbian Art

New York | November 11, 2019

ART
of
AFRICA
MASTERWORKS

CHRISTIE'S

CHRISTIES

AUCTION RESULTS



LOT 29
MASQUE DE CEINTURE EDO AN EDO HIP MASK
ROYAUME DE BÉNIN, NIGERIA
Hauteur : 18 cm. (7 in.)

ESTIMATE
€10,000 - €15,000
(\$11,387 - \$17,081)

PRICE REALIZED



LOT 30
PLAQUE EN BRONZE EDO AN EDO BRONZE
PLAQUE
ROYAUME DE BÉNIN, NIGERIA
Longueur : 40.5 cm. (16 in.)

ESTIMATE
€30,000 - €50,000
(\$34,162 - \$56,937)

PRICE REALIZED



STATE OF THE
**AFRICAN
DIASPORA**

G O V E R N M E N T

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

AND

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE HOUSE OF ANCESTRY, SOUTH CAROLINA, USA



MEMBERS OF

TO: THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND PRESIDENTS OF:

ALL AUCTIONEER HOUSES GLOBALLY INCLUDING:

CHRISTIES (AND ALL LOCATIONS THEREOF)

SOTHEBYS (AND ALL LOCATIONS THEREOF)

BONHAMS (AND ALL LOCATIONS THEREOF)

FREEMANS AUCTION (AND ALL LOCATIONS THEREOF)

ALL INSTITUTIONS HOLDING AFRICAN ARTIFACTS,

MUSEUMS AND PRIVATE COLLECTORS

ONLINE AFRICAN ANTIQUITY MERCHANTS

Paris, June 6, 2020

SOAD/00999/2020

WORLDWIDE CEASE AND DESIST ORDER

We are writing as the State of the African Diaspora an International Governmental Organisation (IGO) in association with the House of Ancestry, South Carolina, USA and as Members of the Economic Community of the 6th Region of Africa.

London Satellite address:

Gemma House, 39 Lilestone Street, City of Westminster
London NW8 8SS, United Kingdom



LOT 55

STATUE SONGYE A SONGYE FIGURE
RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE DU
CONG...

Estimate EUR 300,000 - EUR 500,000
(USD 341,622 - USD 569,369)



LOT 56

STATUE KONGO A KONGO FIGURE
RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE DU
CONG...

Estimate EUR 50,000 - EUR 80,000
(USD 56,937 - USD 91,099)



LOT 57

STATUE SONGYE A SONGYE FIGURE
RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE DU
CONG...

Estimate EUR 30,000 - EUR 50,000
(USD 34,162 - USD 56,937)



A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER

PAST AUCTION SALES

AUCTION RESULTS



LOT 54
MASQUE SONGYE, *KIFWEBE A SONGYE MASK*
RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO

Hauteur : 32.5 cm. (12 ³/₄ in.)

ESTIMATE
€350,000 - €500,000
(\$398,559 - \$569,369)

PRICE REALIZED



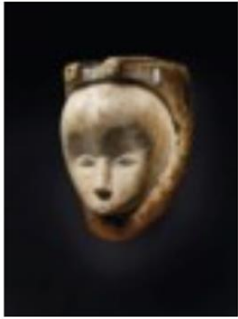
LOT 55
STATUE SONGYE A *SONGYE FIGURE*
RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO

Hauteur : 57 cm. (22 ¹/₂ in.)

ESTIMATE
€300,000 - €500,000
(\$341,622 - \$569,369)

PRICE REALIZED

AUCTION RESULTS



LOT 44
MASQUE FANG A FANG MASK
GABON

Hauteur : 31.5 cm. (12 3/8 in.)

ESTIMATE
€80,000 - €120,000
(\$91,099 - \$136,649)

PRICE REALIZED



LOT 46
MASQUE PUNU A PUNU MASK
GABON

Hauteur : 30 cm. (11 7/8 in.)

ESTIMATE
€50,000 - €80,000
(\$56,937 - \$91,099)

PRICE REALIZED

AUCTION RESULTS



LOT 45
MASQUE TSHOKWE FÉMININ, MWANA PWO A
CHOKWE...

ANGOLA

Hauteur : 33.5 cm. (13 1/8 in.)

ESTIMATE

€80,000 - €120,000

(\$91,099 - \$136,649)

PRICE REALIZED

AUCTION RESULTS



**Luba Songye Mask, Democratic Republic of the Congo.
Sold for US\$93,825 inc. premium**



Kongo-Yombe Power Figure, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Sold for US\$325,075 inc. premium

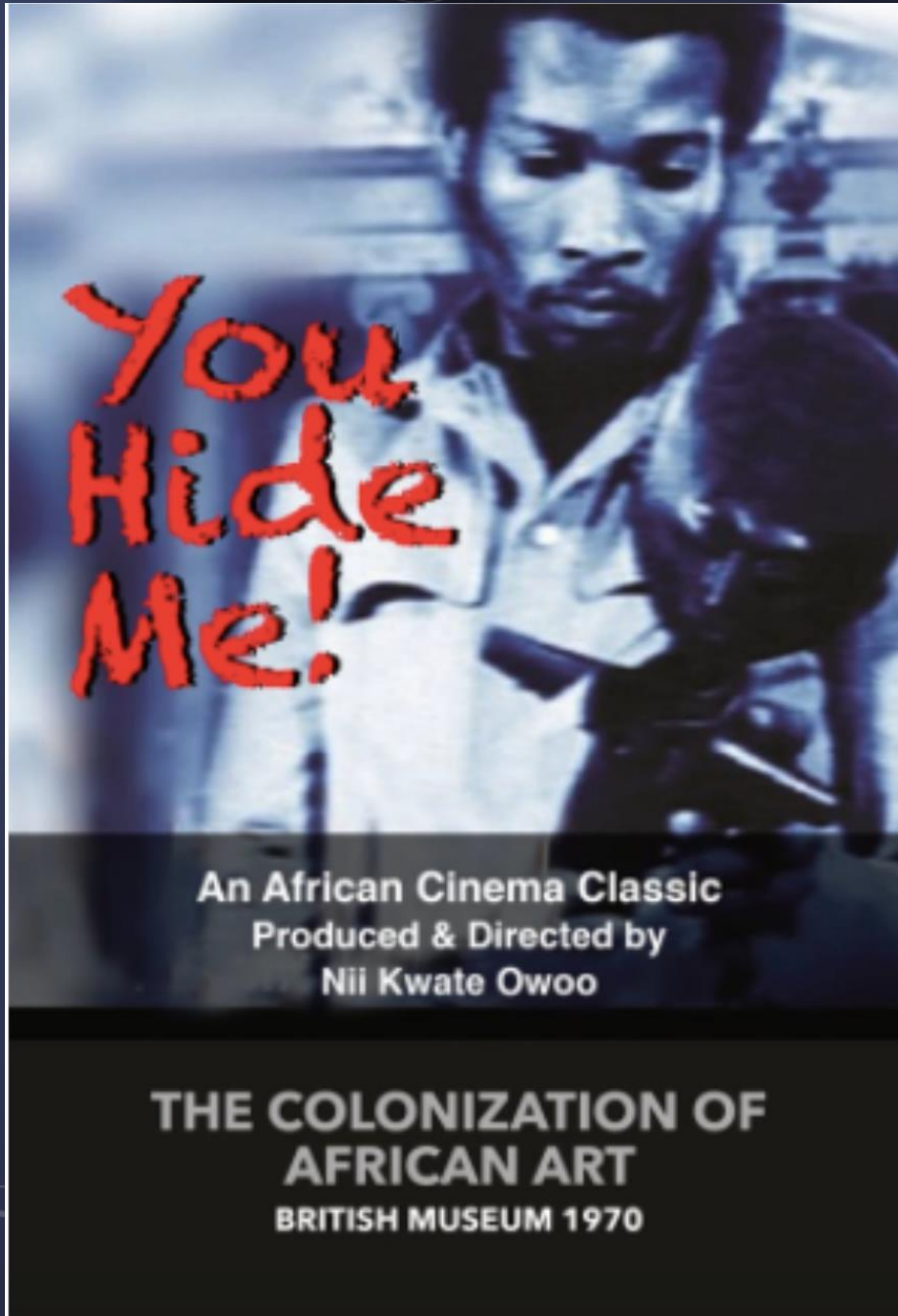
AUCTION RESULTS



Exceptional Kota Reliquary Guardian Figure, Obamba Group, Gabon. Sold for US\$336,500 inc. premium



WHAT IS NOT ON DISPLAY



SYNOPSIS

- In 1970 Ghanaian filmmaker Nii Kwate Owoo gained access to the British Museum to make this short film about the valuable African artefacts held there and make the case for their restitution
- This short film was banned from the UK and Africa and no there is no wonder as to why.

YOU HIDE ME, DOCUMENTARY

AN EXTRACT FROM FILMMAKER NII KWATE OWOO

I was shocked, visibly overwhelmed and shaken by what I discovered down there. First, there was this strange and almost mystical aroma emanating from every section of the basement, where hundreds and thousands of rare and sacred artefacts as far as the eye could see were being stored. These stolen and looted ancient artefacts including numerous bronze and other metal statues, big and small, had been hidden and locked up for centuries like a war booty of a conquering colonial army. I became emotional and had to control myself. It was so surreal and unbelievable that it felt as if I had just stepped out of a time machine: One minute I was in the present and the next minute somewhere in 15th-century Africa. In fact I was really traumatized.

BRITISH MUSEUM UNDERGROUND STORAGE



BRITISH MUSEUM UNDERGROUND STORAGE



BRITISH MUSEUM UNDERGROUND STORAGE



A CALL TO ALL PRIVATE COLLECTORS

- It is now incumbent upon you, as private collectors, to act with a sense of moral responsibility and empathy. The artifacts that grace your collections are not merely objects of beauty; they are symbols of identity, heritage, spirituality and pride for the people who have been unjustly deprived of them. It is time to consider the weight of history and the significance of cultural restoration.
- We call upon you to take a bold and unprecedented step: consider the provenance of the artifacts within your collection and, where evidence exists of their unlawful acquisition or historical injustice, engage in dialogue with us. Let us help you towards avenues for restitution and repatriation, whether through negotiation, cooperation or direct returns to the communities to which these treasures truly belong.
- In doing so, you have the opportunity to rectify a historical wrong, to foster international goodwill, and to contribute to a global cultural tapestry that celebrates diversity, respect, and unity. Your actions have the power to enrich not only the lives of those who have long yearned for the return of their heritage but also the collective conscience of our world.
- We urge you to be a part of this transformative narrative, to stand on the side of justice, and to return stolen artifacts for the sake of cultural restoration and a more inclusive, just and compassionate world.

THE CALL TO ACTION

We further make this call to all Private Collectors of ancient treasures of African and indigenous peoples to play a pivotal role in shaping the art and antiquities market, because their choices have far-reaching consequences. It is of paramount importance that collectors, collectively recognize the moral obligation to cease purchasing stolen artifacts. The demand for such items perpetuates the illegal trade, supporting looting, theft, and the illicit removal of cultural treasures from their rightful origins. By refusing to engage in transactions involving stolen artifacts, private collectors can be powerful agents of change, promoting ethical practices and contributing to the preservation of cultural heritage. Please let us join together in this commitment to uphold the integrity and respect of culture, protect the identities of nations, and ensure that art and antiquities are valued for their historical and cultural significance, not the unjust circumstances of their acquisition.

THE CALL TO ACTION

- Any Private collectors which come forward to champion this initiative this international community would express its gratitude by presenting them with a Certificate of Noble Recognition jointly from the Kingdoms to which the artifact belongs; State of the African Diaspora and other stakeholders
- This noble gesture would send a very loud signal to the institutions around the world detaining stolen artifacts that you no longer condone the illicit sale of antiquities which will eventually bring an end to this abhorrent and offensive practice.

After 117 Years African Art Returned

September 30, 2015 | Written by sola rey

0 Comments

Mark Walker outside of the Oba Palace in Benin (now Edo state) Nigeria posing with one of two statues that he returned to Nigeria, after having being looted over 117 years ago by his ancestor Captain Herbert Walker during the 1897 Punitive Expedition. This has opened the door to many requests for other stolen works, treasures, artifacts and etc, to be repatriated.



IN CONCLUSION

The State of the African Diaspora has the mandate from BENIN, GABON, SOUTH AFRICA, UGANDA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, LIBERIA, CHAD, ZIMBABWE, GUINEA, ANGOLA and more are coming. The International Commission of Heritage and Culture is a rapidly growing powerful international body and coalition of States, Kingdoms, Indigenous Nations, NGOs, Lawyers, communities and individuals

We will be writing to the relevant authorities and institutions :

- 1. That the ban is immediately removed from the “You Hide Me” documentary.**
- 2. That the State of the African Diaspora, the International Commission for Heritage and Cultural, the countries and nations, experts, lawyers and other African curator experts and specialists, join together with each Western countries governing Council or National Body responsible for cultural heritage to form Commissions to directly commence to discuss making available access to all the underground storage facilities within the UK, US, Europe and elsewhere in the world detaining and hiding these works of art; and work towards the liberation and return of these thousands of stolen items – which have no use or consequence to the public at large nor these institutions and recognise the clear and inherent danger of these items being illegally sold at auctions.**

We will be requesting their full and immediate co-operation

<https://edition.cnn.com/style/article/brutish-museums-benin-bronzes/index.html>





PRESS CONFERENCE
CONFERENCE DE PRESSE

HERITAGE & RECONQUEST : A CLASS ACTION
PATRIMOINE ET RECONQUÊTE : UNE CLASS ACTION

Wednesday, October 25
 4.00 PM UK time
 (in English and in French)

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, STATES AND KINGDOMS ARE JOINTLY DEMANDING RESTITUTION

mercredi 25 octobre
 4.00 PM heure de Londres
 (en français et en anglais)

POUR LA PREMIÈRE FOIS DANS L'HISTOIRE, DE MANIÈRE CONJOINTE, DES ETATS ET DES ROYAUMES EXIGENT RESTITUTION.

République Démocratique du Congo ■ Bénin
 ■ Madagascar ■ Gabon ■ Liberia ■ Uganda ■ South Africa ■ Indigenous North Americans

 Join Zoom Conference
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83777052813?pwd=VFpwVEIqSDJkQjIzekFLbVByN0Q4QT09>

THANKYOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

www.thestateofafricandiaspora.com

secretariat@thestateofafricandiaspora.com

culturecommission@thestateofafricandiaspora.com