**Backtalk: Exposures, Erasures, and Elisions of the Bryn Mawr College African Art Collection**

**When**
February--May, 2015

**Location**
Canaday Library, Coombe Suite (second floor)

**Keyword**
Bryn Mawr College

**Description**
In honor of Black History Month and looking ahead to the completion of the new Black Cultural Center on campus, Bryn Mawr College’s Special Collections and Africana Studies programs have collaborated on Backtalk, an exhibition of selected objects and selective information from the College’s African Art Collection. Showcasing 35 artworks keyed to various aspects of family, political and spiritual life, Backtalk invites viewers to engage questions of what the collection includes, leaves out, clarifies, and obscures, as well as how this collection came to be and how it functions within and beyond the College. As an exhibition, Backtalk strives to facilitate meaningful discussions about the complexity of exhibition and ownership of African cultural items.

**Activities**

**Opening reception.** On February 5, 2015, 6:00 to 7:00pm, the community is warmly invited to an opening reception in the Canaday Library Coombe Suite immediately before the Naomi Tutu Black History Month Keynote lecture.

**Panel Discussion.** On Wednesday, February 18, 6:00-8:00 pm, a group of scholars will discuss methods for talking back, with attention to the tensions and synergies between scholarly and political discourse.

**Creative Workshop.** On Saturday, February 21, 11:30am to 1:30pm, participants will respond via writing, visual media, and/or performance to pieces/aspects of the exhibition in a workshop led by Alice Lesnick, Term Professor of Education, Director, Bryn Mawr/Haverford Education Program, and Coordinator, Africana Studies. Location: Coombe Suite.

**Social Media.** Viewers are invited to engage virtually via a Backtalk webspace at Serendip Studio.

https://serendip.brynmawr.edu/oneworld/backtalk