sculptures for *The Seated* at the Metropolitan Museum of Art that illustrate the undeniable “dignity and the peacefulness” of our elders (Wangeci Mutu, email with author, May 1, 2020), I call for the restitution of Buganda collections in museums worldwide to the Buganda Kingdom of Uganda. I affirm Maples’s proposal for a conference in a year to discuss the restitution of African art from American museums. I hope to contribute to the return of African art to the continent.

**AFROPOLITANIST RETURN AND CIRCULATION**

Laetitia Walendom, Fulbright Scholar, MA African Studies, Stanford University, 2018

In June 2020, Congolese-born activist Mwazu-zi Diyabanza and five others attempted to remove a nineteenth-century Chadian funeral post from the Musée du Quai Branly—Jacques Chirac. Diyabanza would go on to enact this type of protest in two more European museums before the end of the year. He and his fellow protesters proclaimed a collective European and North American complicity and were tried by French courts for group theft of an object of cultural heritage. As the reader likely knows, the cultural heritage here in question was Françisc, whose appeal for the items in part mirrors Amanda M. Maples’s Afropolitanist considerations in her First Word. These items have indeed been resocialized, but should at the very least be accessible to their communities of origin as they speak to different geographies in multiple languages (Maples 2020).

The year 2020 and its deluge of surprises left us with small consolations: much of the African continent emerged from the COVID epidemic relatively unscathed. However, the virus’ ramifications have already begun affecting sub-Saharan African countries, spurring legitimate concerns about vaccine equity. These dynamics undoubtedly mirror the stakes and discourse that affect sub-Saharan African countries and cultural institutions. These initiatives, though still insufficient, are essential to active cultural heritage and exercises that advance Afropolitanist considerations in her First Word. The Seated.

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