



## **TALKING OBJECTS LAB** **Decolonizing Memory and Knowledge**

### **Online resources and upcoming events**

The TALKING OBJECTS LAB consists of a series of international think tanks, exhibitions and events taking place in Senegal, Kenya and Germany, among other countries. Created by Mahret Ifeoma Kupka and Isabel Raabe, it explores forms and practices of knowledge from the African continent and tests strategies of dissemination and visualization. The LAB accompanies the development of the TALKING OBJECTS ARCHIVE, a digital archive for decolonial knowledge production initiated by Isabel Raabe, which is scheduled to be published in 2024.

Already in June this year, the performative conference UNEXPECTED LESSONS took an artistic and academic approach to the decolonization of memory and knowledge. Topics included African philosophy, questions concerning classical forms of preservation and presentation in museums, knowledge systems in music, and a critical look at the Eurocentric narrative in art history. Talks, lectures, film screenings and artistic interventions took place in parallel at the Akademie der Künste in Berlin and in the urban landscape in Nairobi, as well as in digital spaces. Participants included Nathalie Anguezomo Mba Bikoro, Natasha A. Kelly, Nadia Yala Kisukidi, Syowia Kyambi, Nora Landkammer, Elsa M'Bala, Carmen Mörsch, Arlette-Louise Ndakoze, El Hadji Malick Ndiaye, Nana Oforiatta Ayim, Peggy Piesche, Felwine Sarr, Bénédicte Savoy, and The Nest Collective.

All contributions to the two-day conference have already been comprehensively documented in multimedia form on the project blog [talkingobjectslab.org](https://talkingobjectslab.org). In the years leading up to the publication of the TALKING OBJECTS ARCHIVE, the blog will be gradually expanded into a supplementary source of knowledge on which the accompanying discourses will be mapped.

Further information: [talkingobjectslab.org](https://talkingobjectslab.org)

#### **Press contact**

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## Upcoming events

### TALKING OBJECTS LAB @ Dakar

4 December 2021, 5–7 pm (GMT)

#### *Le Langage des Objets*

Presentation by artist Viyé Diba within his residence at the Museum Théodore Monod  
Discussion and exhibition opening

In French

Venue: Musée Théodore Monod, Dakar

What knowledge is hidden in objects? What memories are archived in them? What can they tell us and how do we make them speak? The event *Le Langage des Objets* at the Musée Théodore Monod in Dakar brings together artists and experts from different disciplines to discuss the identities of objects and their inherent knowledge.

Participants:

**El Hadji Malick Ndiaye** (art historian, curator Musée Théodore Monod, Dakar), **Hamady Bocoum** (archaeologist, director Musée des Civilisations Noires, Dakar), **Mamaramé Seck** (linguist, curator musée historique de Gorée, IFAN, Ch. A. Diop, Dakar), **Viyé Diba** (artist, Dakar), **Caroline Gueye** (artist, Dakar), **Mahret Ifeoma Kupka** and **Isabel Raabe** (curators TALKING OBJECTS, Germany).

*Le Langage des Objets* is curated by El Hadji Malick Ndiaye in cooperation with Mahret Ifeoma Kupka and Isabel Raabe as part of the TALKING OBEJCTS LAB. The Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire (IFAN Ch. A. Diop), to which the Musée Théodore Monod belongs, is a partner of the project in Senegal.

The event is supported by the German Federal Foreign Office.

The event is open to the public. A film documentation with English subtitles will be made available in the long term on the blog [talkingobjectslab.org](http://talkingobjectslab.org).

### TALKING OBJECTS LAB @ New York

17 December 2021

#### *Mapping Academia / The Pathways of Healing and Caring*

Discussions, art and music

In English

Digital event in cooperation with 1014 – space for ideas, New York City

6.30–8 pm (CET) / 12.30–2 pm (EST)

Discussion and music

#### *Mapping Academia – (European) Black Studies/Afro-American Studies/African Studies*

The panel discusses the current state as well as the history of Black Studies in Europe in relation to the evolution of Black Studies in the United States. Participants are invited to bring pieces of music to enhance and frame the academic discussion. With **Franck Freitas-Ekué** (Centre de recherches sociologiques et politiques de Paris), **Alexander Ghedi Weheliye** (Northwestern University, Chicago) and **Noémi Michel** (Université de Genève), moderated by Mahret Ifeoma Kupka.

**8.15–9.45 pm (CET) / 2.15–3.45 pm (EST)**

Art and artists' talk

***The Pathways of Healing and Caring***

Video works by the artists **Tabita Rezaire** and **Gladys Kalichini** followed by a discussion with the artists, who dedicate their practice to the fields of healing and caring. Moderated by Mahret Ifeoma Kupka and Isabel Raabe.

Curated by Mahret Ifeoma Kupka and Isabel Raabe

Further information at [talkingobjectslab.org](http://talkingobjectslab.org)

Registration for the live stream from 1 December at [1014.nyc](http://1014.nyc)

## **Further events planned**

March 2022, **Dakar**: Think Tank

June 2022, **Nairobi**: Think Tank

September 2022, **Reykjavík**: UNEXPECTED LESSONS Vol. 2