

This book's authors

Tal Adler

Conceptual artist and researcher developing long-term artistic engagements with difficult histories, conflicted communities, and contested heritages through collaboration, participation, and multiperspectivity. He has worked at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna and at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin's Centre for Anthropological Research on Museums and Heritage and Centre for Advanced Study *inherit. heritage in transformation*, leading artistic research on memory, commemoration, and the ethics and politics of collecting and displaying human remains.

Friedrich von Bose

Director of the Museum der Kulturen Basel, he is trained in European Ethnology and has previously held posts including Deputy Chief Curator of the Humboldt Lab at the Humboldt Forum, Berlin, and Head of Research and Exhibitions at the three ethnological museums in Leipzig, Dresden and Herrnhut. His research and curatorial practice focus on contemporary museum transformations, politics of display, and the social life of collections. He has published widely on ethnographic museums and on the intersections of anthropology and museology.

Clara Dröll

Studied European Ethnology at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, where she worked as a student assistant at the Centre for Anthropological Research on Museums and Heritage. Her research focuses on decolonization and curatorial practices, particularly on how to deal with human remains in collections. She is also interested in critical knowledge transfer in museums, artistic research, and migration studies.

Larissa Förster

Director of the Weltkulturen Museum in Frankfurt, she is trained in Anthropology and was the first Head of the Department for Cultural Goods and Collections from Colonial Contexts at the German Lost Art Foundation, Berlin. Her research and practice address colonial collections, provenance, restitution, and postcolonial memory politics. She has written widely on colonial legacies in museums and heritage institutions.

Marion Hulverscheidt

Trained medical doctor and researcher in the history of science and medicine, her work focuses on nineteenth- and twentieth-century medicine with ethical trajectories into contemporary medicine and society. For the past 25 years she has examined colonial, racist, and patriarchal ideas and practices in medicine.

Duane Jethro

Senior Lecturer in the Department of African Studies and Linguistics at the University of Cape Town (UCT). His work examines heritage formation, contested public cultures and material religion. He was a Junior Research Fellow at the Centre for Curating the Archive (UCT), and a postdoctoral researcher at the Centre for Anthropological Research on Museums and Heritage at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. His publications include *Heritage Formation and the Senses in Post-Apartheid South Africa* (2020).

Konradin Kunze

Theatre-maker, exhibition curator, and researcher working at the intersection of art, memory, and public history. He has developed participatory and site-specific projects that address commemoration, heritage, and contested public space. With a particular focus on German colonial history in Tanzania, his work has contributed to debates and practices of restitution.

Sharon Macdonald

Alexander von Humboldt Professor of Social Anthropology at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, she directs the Centre for Cultural Techniques and co-directs the Centre for Advanced Study *inherit. heritage in transformation*, and was founding director of the Centre for Anthropological Research on Museums and Heritage. In all of these, she has been concerned to foster innovative research and practice, including artistic research. Her wide-ranging writing, especially on difficult heritage, memory politics and museum transformations is internationally known.

George Mahashe

Senior Lecturer in Fine Art at the University of Cape Town, South Africa, and a practicing artist. He convenes the research platform —*defunct context*, which centres the curatorial as artistic practice. His work combines photography, anthropology, archives, and storytelling, foregrounding transdisciplinarity as an apt response to the complexity of indigenous knowledge systems, engaging both its historic and emerging practices.

Ricarda Rivoir

Studied Anthropology, Political Science, and European Ethnology in Leipzig and Berlin. Her research focuses on postcolonial provenance studies, especially the colonial legacies of museums and restitution discourses. She has been working at the GRASSI Museum of Ethnology in Leipzig from 2021 and, from 2024 until 2025, at the Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum in Cologne in the Africa collections department.

Laura Strott

Studied Social and Cultural Anthropology, Political Science, and European Ethnology at the Freie Universität Berlin and the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Her research focuses on post- and decolonial perspectives, with particular interest in processes of negotiation, dynamics of entanglement, and moments of failure. She is co-editor of a recent issue of *Berliner Blätter* on curating as relational and ethnographic explorations in the Humboldt Lab.

Edmund de Waal

Internationally renowned artist and writer, he is celebrated for his installations of porcelain vessels, which explore themes of memory, materiality, and narrative, often in relation to particular collections or archives. These themes are also explored in his writing, including the prize-winning *The Hare with Amber Eyes* (2010) and his most recent book, *an Archive* (2025).

