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PHOTOGRAPHY
A VISUAL ART

BIO

Name:

University:

University:

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(de)colonial

Evangeline Giaconia

14502

14216

Artist Statement

The museum is still a cabinet of curiosity. It exists to rearrange the world according to Western ways of seeing, knowing, believing, storing, telling, preserving, interpreting, teaching, and showing.

The museum never stopped being a tool of colonization. Not just the Met, like this zine illustrates. Even your museum next door.

The museum is a storyteller. As long as it has existed, it has been telling stories about everything, all from a single point of view. Museum stories raise Us up and push Them down.

All change is a story. Can we tell different ones?



Calipers

The colonial museum is: a pair of calipers.

Archaic tool of the frenologist, measuring heads. The calipers assign intelligence to race, inscribe race and assign it to place, and locate race on the map of the museum. It is the storehouse of plunder and the narrative of a nation, split between culture and nature, White and Other, us and them.

Hold still for your label text.

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Exhibition

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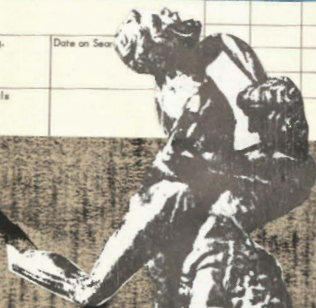
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WHAT WE TOOK



RITUALS
 Lives

HOME

the only habitat where
 is one of the largest
 north America

A NATION

TREASURES

family

LEGACY

THE WORLD

CULTURE

The First Floor of The Metropolitan Museum of Art

How does the museum map?

Floor 1

Modern & Contemporary
 Art

Robert Lehman
 Collection

American
 Wing

Medieval Art

Arts of Africa,
 Oceania,
 & the Americas

European Decorative
 Arts & Sculpture

Arms &
 Armor

Greek & Roman Art

Egyptian Art

Europe and the America spread through six galleries;
 the rest of the world (minus Egypt, on the other side
 of the world from Africa) relegated to a single one.

This is how the museum maps.

Drop-Spindle

The decolonial museum *could be*: a drop spindle.

Drop spindles are used to turn wool into yarn. They are ancient tools, knowledge preserved by spinners learning traditional craft. Sheep to wool to spindle to skein. Knowledge passed from hand to hand and mouth to mouth, beyond the human. Tradition and novelty. Spinning a yarn.

The museum is a storyteller. It can tell the caliper tales it has always told. Or it can pick up a different thread.



"For the master's tools will never dismantle
the master's house."

Audre Lorde

"To hold alternative histories is to hold
alternative knowledges"

Linda Tuhiwai Smith

"Whenever we try to envision a world without
war, without violence, without prisons,
without capitalism, we are engaging in
speculative fiction"

Walidah Imanisha

"Site of oppression have the potential to
transform into sites of revitalization and
autonomy"

Amy Lonetree



PLEASE USE CONTINUATION