

“Conversation Pieces” panel discussion with Lisa Aronson, Catherine Hale and Barbara McCann

Carleton University Art Gallery

Sunday 6 March 2011, 2:00 p.m.

Free admission and parking

In conjunction with *Conversation Pieces: African Textiles from Barbara and Bill McCann's Collection*, Carleton University Art Gallery invites you to participate in a discussion about the diverse and exciting range of African textiles presented in the gallery. Highlights of the exhibition include an intricately-appliquéd raffia woman's skirt from the Democratic Republic of Congo, a cotton hunter's shirt from Mali adorned with leather amulets and mirrors, a richly-embroidered cotton man's gown from Nigeria, a Moroccan wool hooded cloak featuring a vivid red “eye” motif, and a three-part bridal outfit from Egypt's Siwa Oasis region. *Conversation Pieces* explores the many ways that textiles initiate dialogue about and between people in Africa and elsewhere.

Dr. Lisa Aronson (Skidmore College) specializes in African art and visual culture with particular expertise in the area of textiles. She has conducted extensive research in Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Ghana; her research and writing has focused mainly on the impact of trade and colonialism on African textile production and gender issues in African art. Catherine Hale, the exhibition's curator, is a PhD Candidate in the history of art and architecture at Harvard University. Her doctoral research focuses on the material culture of the Asante peoples of Ghana and the impact of cross-cultural exchange on African art. Barbara McCann, a textile collector from Ottawa, is a graduate of anthropology from University of Western Ontario. She worked for CUSO and CIDA in international development, traveling the globe in her work on gender equality rights. She and her husband Bill built up their collection over four decades, purchasing many textiles in the markets of the countries of origin, sometimes meeting with the artists who produced them.