

# *Contested Holdings*

Museum Collections in Political, Epistemic and  
Artistic Processes of Return

EDITED BY

FELICITY BODENSTEIN, DAMIANA OȚOIU AND  
EVA-MARIA TROELENBERG



berghahn  
NEW YORK • OXFORD  
[www.berghahnbooks.com](http://www.berghahnbooks.com)

# CONTENTS

<i>List of Illustrations</i>	vii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ix
<i>Abbreviations</i>	xi
Introduction	1
<i>Felicity Bodenstein and Damiana Ofoiu</i>	
<b>Part I. From Objects Back to People: Ways of Life and Loss</b>	
Chapter 1. The Value of Art – a Human Life? Works of Art in the Crosshairs of the Persecution of Jews under National Socialism	23
<i>Ulrike Saß</i>	
Chapter 2. Return as Reconstruction: The Gwoździec Synagogue Replica in the Museum of the History of Polish Jews	44
<i>Ewa Manikowska</i>	
Chapter 3. <i>The Other Nefertiti</i> : Symbolic Restitutions	65
<i>Ruth E. Iskin</i>	
<b>Part II. The Subject of Return: Between Artefacts and Bodies</b>	
Chapter 4. Blurring Objects: Life Casts, Human Remains and Art History	81
<i>Noémie Etienne</i>	
Chapter 5. Of Phrenology, Reconciliation and Veneration: Exhibiting the Repatriated Life Cast of Māori Chief Takatahara at the Akaroa Museum	96
<i>Christopher Sommer</i>	

Chapter 6. Ancestors or Artefacts: Contention in the Definition, Retention and Return of Ngarrindjeri Old People <i>Cressida Fforde, Major Sumner, Loretta Sumner, Tristram Besterman and Steve Hemming</i>	117
<b>Part III. 'The Making of Law': Politics and Museum Ethics</b>	
Chapter 7. A Long-Term Perspective on the Issue of the Return of Congolese Cultural Objects: Entangled Relations between Kinshasa and Tervuren (1930–80) <i>Placide Mumbembele Sanger</i>	139
Chapter 8. 'How Would You Like to See Your Great-Grandfather in a Museum?' The Issue of 'Human Dignity' in Repatriation Processes (Cases Involving French Museums) <i>Cristina Golomoz</i>	163
Chapter 9. (De)Museifying Collections of Physical Anthropology: The Display and/or the Restitution of Human Remains of Indigenous Peoples from Southern Africa <i>Damiana Ofoiu</i>	175
<b>Part IV. Partial and Paused Returns</b>	
Chapter 10. Baroque Returns: The Donations and Reuses of Francesco Gualdi <i>Fabrizio Federici</i>	197
Chapter 11. Getting the Benin Bronzes Back to Nigeria: The Art Market and the Formation of National Collections and Concepts of Heritage in Benin City and Lagos <i>Felicity Bodenstein</i>	220
Chapter 12. What Future for Looted Syrian Antiquities? The Clash between the Law and Practice for the Repatriation of Cultural Property to Countries in Crisis <i>Erin Thompson</i>	242
Conclusion. Unfinished Projects of 'Decentring' Western Museum Practices <i>Felicity Bodenstein, Damiana Ofoiu and Eva-Maria Troelenberg</i>	266
Index	285