What if...
I am a part of something?
EXPLORE the images of art pictured in these pages. Answer the questions in the tan boxes.

Metal arts have been an important part of community-building in many parts of Africa. Bells like this one were used as both sculptures and instruments in rituals. Varied styles reflect complex histories of local production, traveling artists and regional trade. Similar objects remain in ritual use today.

ON VIEW IN
Peace, Power and Prestige: Metal Arts in Africa

Cross River Region artist, Nigeria
Anthropomorphic Bell
15 – 16th century
Bronze or other copper alloy
4 x 3\(\frac{3}{4}\) x 6\(\frac{1}{4}\)in.

Our communities can be neighborhoods, sports teams, clubs, volunteer or religious groups and other routine immersive gatherings.

We are often a part of multiple communities. Just as metal can take different forms, our individual sense of self is shaped by where we are and who we are with.

Describe this bell. Who might be pictured on it?

What sounds fill a community you are a part of?

How does music bring people together?

Share a song, anthem or chant that reminds you of your community.
Fashion trends change over time and are influenced by social and historical transformations. The fashions we choose to wear can signal what groups we are a part of. In 1951, artist Carlos Mérida created lithographs featuring ten indigenous groups from Guatemala, showing the diversity of their traditions and clothing.

ON VIEW IN
Highlights from the Modern Collection

Mariama Sakho models gold Jewelry ensemble by Oumou Sy. Photograph by Macoumba N’Diaye, Dakar, 2018

Japanese artist, Haori, Taisho Period (1912 – 1926), silk

Examples of fashion from other areas of the world can be seen in this gold ensemble from Dakar, Senegal and in Peace, Power, Prestige: Metal Arts in Africa and this haori, a jacket from Japan, part of the exhibition Tempus Fugit :: 光陰矢の如し :: Time Flies.
Danish-Icelandic artist Olafur Eliasson uses light and space to create an environment that makes you a part of the art. The lamp projects shadow and light on the walls, in shapes that change according to who is in the room, and how they move in the space. Much like this work, we change and add to our communities. Your presence and actions can create a sense of belonging in a community.

ON VIEW IN
Global Perspectives: Highlights from the Contemporary Collection
Olafur Eliasson, Danish-Icelandic born 1967
_Fivefold Sphere Projection Lamp_ 2006
6 ft. 2¼ in. x 23¼ in. x 23¾ in.

See more of Eliasson’s work at [olafureliasson.net](http://olafureliasson.net)

"You are a collaborator - what you see is totally up to you."

Olafur Eliasson
Netflix Series “Abstract”
British artist Magdalene Anyango N. Odundo of Kenyan descent hand built these vessels. The flaring tops reference African women’s headdresses, while the narrow neck recalls the corseted and cinched waists of 19th century British women. Exchanging stories of history and culture can help us connect through similarities, and find empathy and new perspectives in our differences.


Sharing a plate of food with a friend or giving someone a vase of flowers can create feelings of connection. The vessels that contain the gift can also carry special meanings. A family may have a pan for making Spanish paella or a colorful holiday tin for brownies. Vessels can also hold the remains or cherished belongings of our loved ones. These vessels can connect multiple generations.

ON VIEW IN

Global Perspectives: Highlights from the Contemporary Collection

How would you use these two vessels? Where would you like to display them?

Imagine you were making a vessel of your own. What material would you use?
What cultural influences might affect the shape it takes or how you want it to look?
Would it have a specific use?
Being a part of something can mean...

- Listening
- Feeling
- Looking
- Belonging
(Say your name aloud)

is part of something.

This guide was created by Elisabeth Rios-Brooks, Spring 2020 Research & Interpretive Strategies Intern, and Elizabeth King, Gallery Interpretation & Public Programs Manager, Harn Museum of Art.

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