

## Mission Statement

To what extent can any exhibition be a liberatory process for Black art and artists, given the fraught relationship between museum institutions and Black culture? Museums have historically perpetuated a hegemonic gaze on the Black diaspora through the theft of cultural objects and appropriating styles, while also devaluing skilled practices, and excluding Black art from collections. *About Things Loved: Blackness and Belonging*, thus addresses the narrowly defined spaces in which Black art has been positioned, and as a diasporic praxis of decolonizing institutions, this exhibition centers the voices, experiences, and creations of Black artists.

This exhibition rejects hierarchical curatorial practices that so often asserts, rather than asks. We do not present ourselves as authorities on the multiple narratives of Black diasporas, but instead as invested members of communities that desire to work toward a more just art world that uplifts Black art and Black artists. In making space for Black art within the gallery, this exhibition aims to rethink what care and love might look like in practice. It is our hope that foregrounding an ethics of care as a decolonizing strategy will generate possibilities for liberation and healing in the museum.