



## STAY 'TIL YOU COME BACK

Medium: Stoneware, wood, crushed shells, cowrie shells

'Stay 'Til You Come Back' explores the poetic movement of cultural connections across the African diaspora, and the nature of memory as a conduit for endless reconfigurations of identity. For the installation, Anina Major carefully selects three objects from the Yale Peabody Museum collection—a gourd container adorned with raffia and cowrie shells, a truncated triangular flat woven basket, and a ceramic shard heavily tempered with shells, to provide the material framework for the installation. Its title, 'Stay 'Til You Come Back', coined by a family friend, layers additional meaning for the work as the saying speaks of a journey with an undetermined length or date of return—a memory yet to be made. Metaphorically, it also speaks to a form of displacement that exists when these objects are placed within a museum context. Within the installation, Major mimics the shape of the gourd with woven ceramic sculptures, as she contemplates the reconfiguration of identity and how its shape is mirrored across the diaspora. The vessels act as offerings and reminders of the ways memory is carried and rebirthed. Positioned upon makeshift structures of mixed-matched slabs of reclaimed wood placed together in what would appear to be a haphazard manner. The aesthetic appeal is of no significance as the integrity of the wooden structures hold firm undisturbed by the floor of crushed shells. They are sturdy and dependable. Their presence is a tribute to the resilience of the global majority and their ability to knit themselves together through fragmented offerings.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS:





*Objects from the Yale Peabody Collection.*