

# Stellar Connections:



Galvin Jantjes, b. 1948, South Africa, *Untitled*, 1989–90, Acrylic on canvas, National Museum of African Art.



Detail from the cover of *The Arctic Sky*: Kenojuak Ashevak, *Nunavut Qajanaartuk* (Our beautiful land) hand-colored lithograph, 1992.

## Explorations in Cultural Astronomy

In Indigenous worldviews where humanity, nature, and the spiritual realm are closely connected, the night sky provides spiritual and navigational guidance, timekeeping, weather prediction, and stories and legends that tell us how to live a proper life. Cultural astronomy—also referred to as archaeoastronomy or ethnoastronomy—explores the distinctive ways that astronomy is culturally embedded in the practices and traditions of various peoples. Join cultural astronomy experts as they present and compare Native traditions from different areas of the world. **Gary Urton** will speak on “Cosmologies of the Milky Way: South American Views on the Unity of Earth and Sky,” while **Michael Wassegijig Price** will address “Underwater Panthers, Thunderbirds, and Anishinaabe Star Knowledge.” **John MacDonald** will focus on “The Arctic Sky: Inuit Astronomy, Star Lore, and Legend,” and **Babatunde Lawal** will share African traditions in “A Big Calabash with Two Halves: The Yoruba Vision of the Cosmos.”

This symposium, a partnership between the National Museum of the American Indian and National Museum of African Art in furtherance of Indigenous cultural astronomy, is presented in conjunction with the exhibition, *African Cosmos: Stellar Arts*, now on view at the National Museum of African Art.



From left to right: Babatunde Lawal, John MacDonald, Michael Wassegijig Price, and Gary Urton.

### DATE AND TIME

Saturday, October 20, 2012  
2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., Rasmuson Theater

### LOCATION

National Museum of the American Indian  
4th Street and Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20024



Smithsonian  
National Museum of the American Indian

### FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Metro: L'Enfant Plaza, Maryland Avenue/Smithsonian Museums exit.  
Live webcast at <http://nmai.si.edu/multimedia/webcasts/>.  
For further information, please contact [NMAI-SSP@si.edu](mailto:NMAI-SSP@si.edu).