

TOPIC: - History of Nigeria Traditional Art

The Nigerian traditional art discovered in Nigeria are Nok art, Igbo-ukwu art, Ife art, Benin Art, Esie art, Tosode art, and others. In these lesson six Art cultures will be discussed.

NOK Art this is the oldest art tradition in Nigeria it got its name from a village called Nok near Jega in Kaduna State close to Jos, Plateau State. The art culture was discovered by Clonel J. Dent Young a co-owner of a tin mining outfit around Nok in 1928.

The artwork was taken to Jos Museum owned by the department of mining after the second discovery in 1943.

IGBO-UKWU Art is an art form discovered in a small village known as Igbo-ukwu in Anambara State where sculpture tradition and archeological site was discovered first in 1939, dates back to 9th Century AD, the Art form is characterized by heavy and intricate surface ornamentations which is one of the best and oldest in Africa. The media used for its artworks Bronze, Snail shell and others.

Ife Art is an art form known as court art as a result of the control the Ooni of Ife has on its art and artist. Ife art originated from Ife, the present Osun state the cradle of Yoruba people. This art form is discovered by John and Richard Lander in 1832 although it was agreed to be in existence since 1910. Some of Ife artworks are

- 1) head of an Ooni of Ife
- 2) Rituals figure of a queen
- 3) Terra cotta head
- 4) Terra cotta head of a ram
- 5) Figure of Ooni-brass

Benin Art is an art form that is equally referred to court Art as a result of the Obas court monopoly, it was said to Originate from Benin Edo state in 1897, the media used for its art works are Bronze, Ivory, stone, terra cotta and wood.

Esie Art this art form is discovered from igbomina south-east of Ilorin near Offa in present Kwara state in 1911 by a German Archeologist Leo Frobenius

Tosode Art this art form is originated from the son of Idah King in Igala kingdom who was banished from his father's kingdom and he founded Tosode Art in Nupe Kingdom in 16th Century.

The Tosode art was discovered in the middle belt, fishing village of Bida in Niger state around 100 A.D About the period of Ife and Benin art culture.