

ART

Art is a visual object or experience consciously created through an expression of skill or imagination or so as thought in the current civilized world. Art was originally a way of life for the African community but the western civilization has managed to erode the African sense of belonging

African Art is much different in use from its Western Art counterparts. Western Art, is used to decorate walls and can be studied for its perspective, lines, symmetry and many other artistic forms. African Art was used as an integral part of the society's rituals, dances and ceremonies.



Demoiselles D'Avignon by Picasso



African Mask From Cote d' Ivoire

Figure 1: Western vs African traditional art

Most artworks from Africa are mostly but not limited to masks, paintings, textiles, and statues. Africans used different materials depending on their environment to produce these works, materials like wood, clay, shells, ivory, bronze, gold, copper, clay, feathers, bark and raffia.



Figure 2: Bell Mallet made of wood



Figure 3: The great Bieri made of clay

Artistic creations from Africa have some religious or ceremonial purposes and often times they are expressed as a combination of realism with the supernatural or downright abstract artistic expressions.



Figure 4: Makonde carving in ebony depicting spirits



Figure 5: Ijaw mask



Figure 6; Helmet Mende mask used for political and religious organizations

Sometimes the works feature distorted elongated and exaggerated figures; sometimes the items are covered with bright dissonant colors resulting in a color clash that is not necessarily complimentary or pleasing to the eye. Sometimes the surfaces are a repetition of geometric patterns.



Figure 7: Gbini mask



Figure 8: Prestige panel



Figure 9: Dogon sculpture with combination of geometric and figurative images

MODERN ART

Modern art is characterized by the shift from traditional artistic styles to more abstract, experimental approach to creating works of art. Major modern art movements include impressionism, Expressionism, cubism, fauvism, Dadaism and surrealism

Modern art is generally characterized by;

- Use of vibrant colors
- Abstract, expressive forms and shapes
- Exploration of new concepts such as movement, time and space
- Rejection of mainstream values



Figure 10: Tamantina dancers



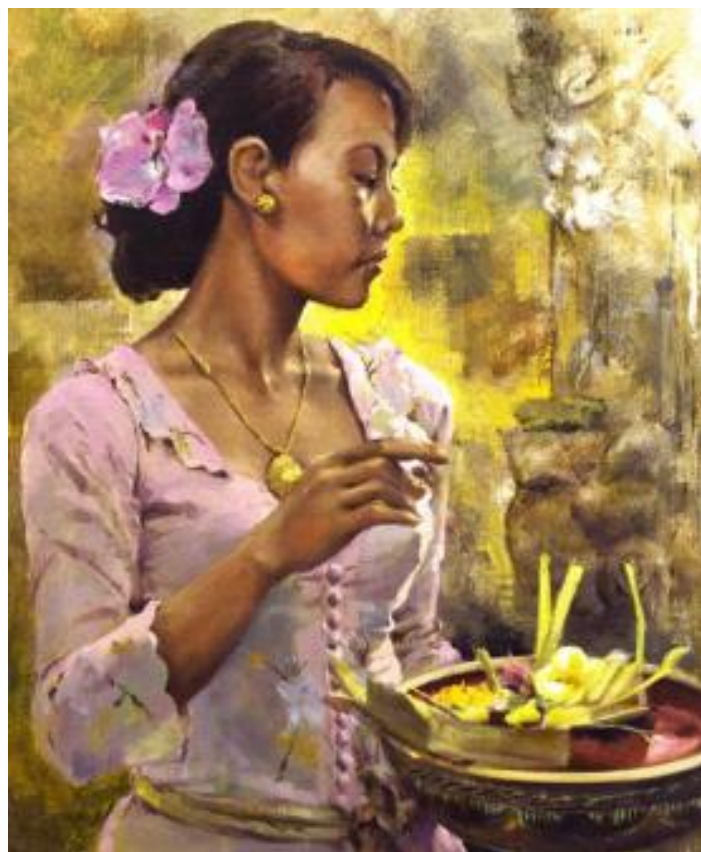


Figure 11: Balinese woman



Figure 12:Framer