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Mr. Vacca x Mr. Simoneaux
Adv. History X Block
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This mask represents the object's history, while considering its changing meaning and symbolizing the memories within ritual objects. It serves as an accurate replica of a traditional Mumuye mask, that was used in pre-war rituals, and is currently key in healing and rainmaking practices. Originating from the Mumuye people along Nigeria's Benue River, the mask embodies the intense traditional beliefs of their culture, flowing into their past, present, and future.

Using paper mache to build the base, I aimed to replicate both forms and to channel the spirit and purpose behind it. The mask was formed off the shape of my own face, then modified as I placed each soaked, recycled paper on the mask. Once it dried, the colors of white and red bleed deep into the spiritual and traditional beliefs of the Mumuye people as a way to preserve a tale that evolves as time passes.

Through this process, I struggled with finding how I would maintain the shape of the face, while simultaneously gluing each piece of paper onto the base. It made me wonder how people's passions continued, even in times of doubt or failure. In my piece, I aimed to offer not just a visual representation, but a vessel of ancestral voice and resistance.

Sources

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