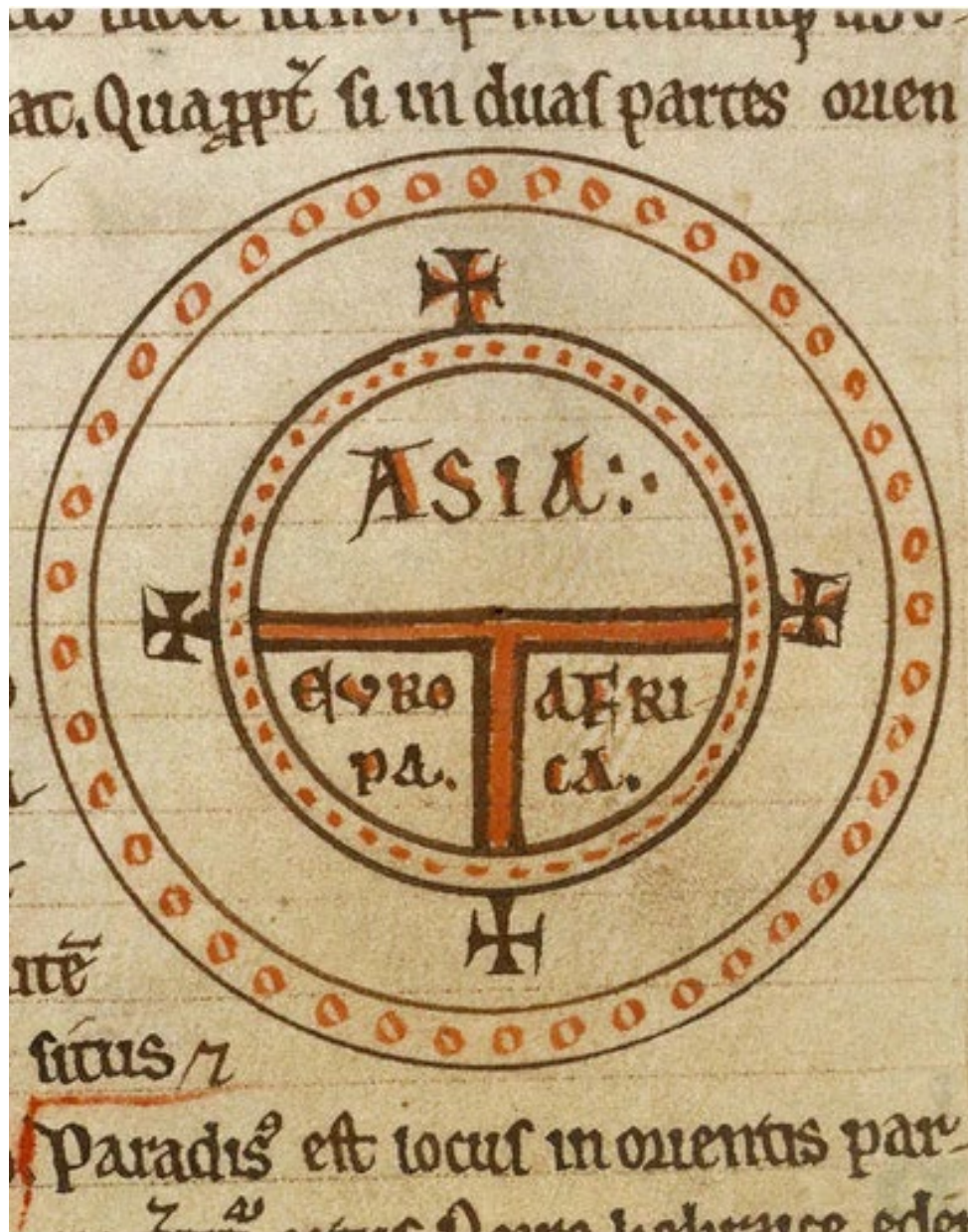


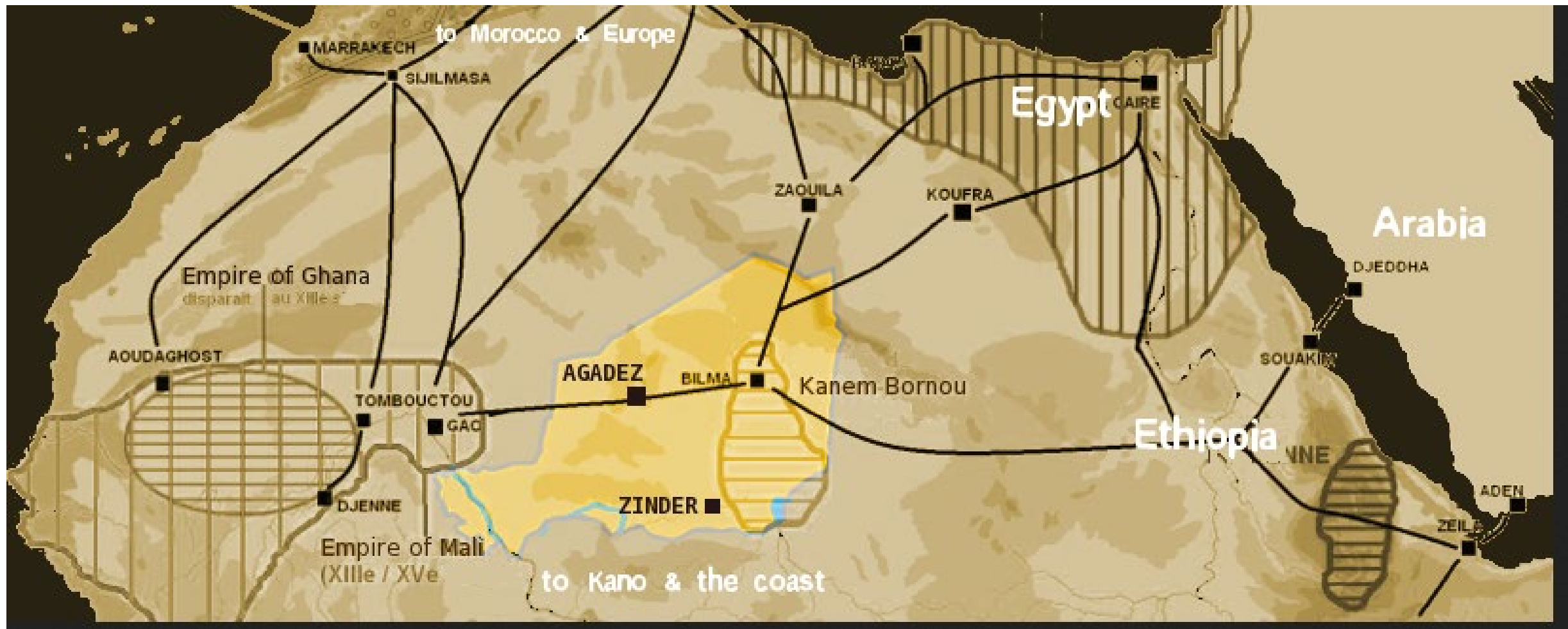
Europe and Africa

Africa in European Art



Africa in the “known” World in the Middle Ages



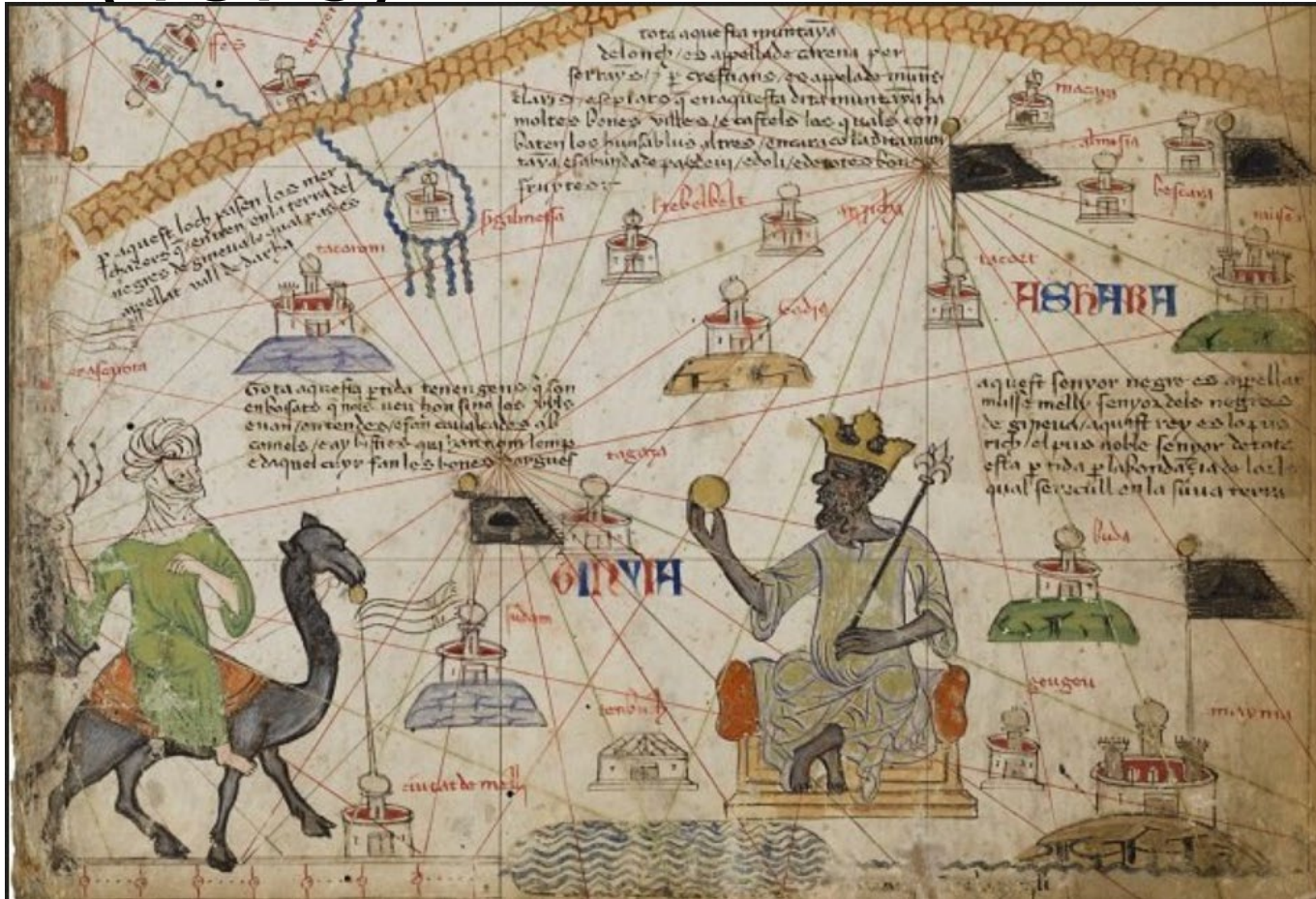


Trans-Saharan Trade Routes



- “Augustalis”
 - Gold coin issued by Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II (r. 1215–50)

Representation of African on the *Catalan Map* (1375)



- Mansa Kankan Musa (?-1337)
 - Ruler, Mali Empire from 1307 (?)
- Map commissioned by King of Aragon.



- A caption of the image on the Catalan map reads:
 - “This Moorish ruler is named Musse Melly [Mansa Musa], lord of Guinea. This king is the richest and most distinguished ruler of this whole region on account of the great quantity of gold that is found in his lands.”

<https://caravans.library.northwestern.edu/works/26/>



- “The Meeting of the Three Kings” by Master of the St. Bartholomew Altarpiece (Germany, 1480)



- “The Adoration”
by Hans Memling
(Germany, 1470)



- “Adoration of the Magi” (Antwerp, c. 1520)



<https://www.getty.edu/news/exhibition-to-examine-balthazar-a-black-african-king-in-medieval-and-renaissance-european-art/>



The Black Balthazar in paintings of the Adoration

Detail of The Adoration of the Magi from a Book of Hours showing the magus Balthazar (right), about 1480–90, Georges Trubert. Tempera colors, gold leaf, gold and silver paint, and ink on parchment, 4 1/2 × 3 3/8 in. Getty Museum, Ms. 48 (93.ML.6), fol. 59



Opening from a tiny
late-15th-century
[Book of Hours](#)
showing an
illumination of the
Adoration of the Magi
(right),

<https://www.getty.edu/news/exhibition-to-examine-balthazar-a-black-african-king-in-medieval-and-renaissance-european-art/>



The Adoration of the Magi, about 1495–1505, Andrea Mantegna. Distemper on linen, 19 1/8 × 25 13/16 in. Getty Museum, 85.PA.417

Painting owned by Isabella d'Este, marchioness of Mantua, and her husband, the Marquis Francesco, known to have owned enslaved people from Africa.

<https://www.getty.edu/news/exhibition-to-examine-balthazar-a-black-african-king-in-medieval-and-renaissance-european-art/>



*The Adoration of the Magi, 1470s,
Franco dei Russi.*

<https://www.getty.edu/news/exhibition-to-examine-balthazar-a-black-african-king-in-medieval-and-renaissance-european-art/>



“Portrait of Katharina” by Albrecht Dürer, 1521.

She was an enslaved woman in the household of João Brandão , the Portuguese trade Consul in Antwerp.



- John Akomfrah
 - Ghanaian-born British artist and film director
- *Peripeteia*
 - Short film (2012)
 - Akomfrah's visual reimagination of a man and a woman of African descent who were painted by Albrecht Dürer in the 16th century.

Activity and Discussion

- 1. Reflect on the drawing “Portrait of Katharina (1521) by Albrecht Dürer.”
 - Discuss with your group what the drawing tells or does not tell you about the subject of the the portrait.
- 2. Now watch the excerpt of John Akomfrah’s short film Peripeteia (2012)
 - <https://vimeo.com/101158230>.
 - Discuss what John Akomfrah’s reimagination of the subject of the portrait says about her and how his visualization communicates that.
 - Discuss how Akomfrah’s reimagination reflects, expands on, or counters your own thoughts about the drawing and its subject.
 - One member of your group will present a summary of your discussion to the class.