

Purpura 9.24.07

Readings for Docent Study Group, Africa Gallery, Session #1: Getting Situated

These readings were selected with an eye towards questions raised by docents at the end of our presentation in March 2007, which introduced the installation's conceptual frame and the draft object list.

General Background on tradition-based African art:

- John Picton, 2003, "African Art: An Introduction." London, SOAS (unpublished). Pp. 1-28
- In Monica Blackmun Visonà, et al, 2003. *A History of Art in Africa*. NJ: Prentice Hall:
 - Rolland Abiodun, "Preface." Pp. 10-13.
 - Suzanne Blier, "Africa, Art and History: An Introduction." Pp. 14-23.
- Susan Vogel, 1991, "Traditional Art: Elastic Continuum." In S. Vogel, *Africa Explores*. Pp. 32-55.

On Performance/Masquerades:

- Herbert M. Cole, 1985, "Introduction: The Mask, Masking and Masquerade Arts in Africa." In *I Am Not Myself: Art of African Masquerade*. LA: UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History. Pp. 15-22

Recommended (fun short first hand account of being "behind the mask")

- Chika Okeke, 2006. "At the Threshold: Childhood Masking in Umuoji and Umuahia." In *Playful Performers: African Children's Masquerades*. NJ: Transaction Books. Pp. 159-164.

On Life History of Objects/Collecting/Authenticity:

- Christraud Geary, 2007, Chapter 1 "Collecting African and Oceanic Art during the second half of the twentieth century." In *Material Journeys: Collecting African and Oceanic Art, 1945-2000*. Boston: Museum of Fine Arts. Pp. 11-21.
- Chris Steiner, 2002. "The Taste of Angels in the Art of Darkness: Fashioning the Canon of African Art." In *Art History and Its Institutions*, edited by Elizabeth Mansfield. New York: Routledge. pp. 132-145.

On the Appearance of Things:

- Susan Vogel, 1986. "African Aesthetics." In *African Aesthetics: The Carlo Monzino Collection*. Pp. xi-xvii

recommended:

- Robert Farris Thompson, 2002, "African Art in Motion." In Pam McClusky, *Art from Africa: Long Steps Never Broke a Back*. Seattle: Seattle Art Museum. Pp. 17-60.