
Reading list for African Gallery Docent Study Group #2, November 12, 2007

This session will focus on some aspects of African societies prevalent in west and central Africa for which aesthetic production is key (and which encompass our objects). These are "secret" societies (or men's/women's associations) and age grades/initiation; expressions of leadership/authority; the use of objects to denote prestige; and mediation/communication with unseen worlds or beings.

New for this session:

- Herbert M. Cole, 1989, Chapter 2 "Useful Images: The Life of Art in Africa." In *Icons: Ideals and Power in the Art of Africa*. Pp. 24-37.
- Selections from Visona et al:
 - o "Art and Leadership." Pp. 196-197
 - o on Yoruba deities Esu and Ogun, pp 245-252
 - o "Rites of Passage." Pp. 424-425
 - o illustrative selections from chapters 11 & 12: pages 366-378 (Kongo); 380-385 (Chokwe); 394-402 (Sala Mpasu, Kuba); 422-426 (Songye and Lega).
- D, Biebuyck, 1970. "Effects on Lega Art of the Outlawing of the Bwami Association." In *New African Literature and the Arts, Vol. 1*. NY: Crowell. Pp 340-352.
- Pam McClusky, 2002, "The Fetish and the Imagination of Europe: Sacred Medicines of the Kongo". In *Art from Africa: Long Steps Never Broke a Back*.
- OBJECT LABELS handed out last session

Recommended for the session:

- R. Corbey, 2000, "Marc Leo Felix and the Congo." In *Tribal Art Traffic*. Pp. 167-183.
- For basic statistics and maps of Africa: M. McNulty, 1995, chapter 2, "The Contemporary Map of Africa." In Phyllis M. Martin and Patrick O'Meara, eds., *Africa*. Indiana University Press.

Please be sure to review the following highlights from last session:

- Herbert M. Cole, "Introduction: The Mask, Masking and the Masquerade Arts in Africa."
- Chika Okeke, "At the Threshold: Childhood Masking in Umuoji and Umuahia."
- R.F. Thompson, "African Art in Motion" (from McClusky's *Art from Africa: Long Steps Never Broke a Back*.)
- Susan Vogel, "Traditional Art: Elastic Continuum."
- John Picton, "African Art: An Introduction."