The Shattered Gourd: Yoruba Forms in Twentieth Century American Art

Moyo Okediji (Author)


*The Shattered Gourd* uses the lens of visual art to examine connections between the United States and the Yoruba region of western Nigeria.

In Yoruba legend, the sacred Calabash of Being contained the Water of Life; when the gourd was shattered, its fragments were scattered over the ground, death invaded the world, and imperfection crept into human affairs. In more modern times, the shattered gourd has symbolized the warfare and enslavement that culminated in the black diasporas.

The "re-membering" of the gourd is represented by the survival of people of African origin all over the Americas, and, in this volume, by their rediscovery of African art forms on the diaspora soil of the United States. Twentieth-century African American artists employing Yoruba images in their work have gone from protest art to the exploration and celebration of the self and the community. But because the social, economic, and political context of African art forms differs markedly from that of American culture, critical contradictions between form and meaning often appear in African American works that use African forms.

In this book - the first to treat Yoruba forms while transcending the conventional emphasis on them as folk art, focusing instead on the high art tradition - Moyo Okediji uses nearly four dozen works to illustrate a broad thematic treatment combined with a detailed approach to individual African and African American artists. Incorporating works by such artists as Meta Warrick Fuller, Hale Woodruff, Aaron Douglas, Elizabeth Catlett, Ademola Olugebefola, Paul Keene, Jeff Donaldson, Howardena Pindell, Muneer Bahauddeen, Michelle Turner, Michael Harris, Winnie Owens-Hart, and John Biggers, the author invites the reader to envision what he describes as "the immense possibilities of the future, as the twenty-first century embraces the twentieth in a primal dance of the diasporas," a future that heralds the advent of the global as a distinct movement in art, beyond postmodernism.
The Yoruba kingdom wooden sculptural groups of royal figures employ the symbolic visual strategy known as hierarchic scale. Asante Kente cloth was originally reserved for.

To which of the four key concepts of African art identified at the beginning of the chapter does the Bwa masquerade ceremony most closely adhere? participation. Which term applies to El Anatsui's art? recuperation. El Anatsui's art reveals his interest in African artistic traditions. Contemporary artist Seydou Keita uses his photographs to address Africa's. Greenwood Encyclopedia of Asian

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Self-Reliant Cool Tips: Yellow Ceramic Vases wooden vases lathe. Where are are the calabash carvers of Yorubaland? Blindsiding Ideas: Tall Vases Rustic old vases decor.Â gourd art - This is amazing craftsmanship, gourd art Inspiration for paper mache r clay. Dremel used in gourd art. gourd art. Kelly.Â American artist and sculptor Marilyn Sunderland creates wonderful art carvings on gourds that have a lovely folk art vibe about them. Design - Unique Masterpieces of Pumpkin By Marilyn Sunderland. WOWâ€”Beautiful creative pieceâ€”amazing workmanshipâ€”gourd art, by Utah-basedâ€”