

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

NO. 109

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AFRICAN TEXTILES AND DECORATIVE ARTS AT MODERN MUSEUM

Black Africa is the source for an exhibition of AFRICAN TEXTILES AND DECORATIVE ARTS which will be on view at The Museum of Modern Art, New York from October 11 through January 31, after which it begins a national year-long tour. This comprehensive survey includes 250 examples of textiles and jewelry from 26 countries. It will be presented by the Museum under the auspices of its International Council and is made possible by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and Standard Oil Company (New Jersey).

Textiles in the show include East African bark cloth, complex woven mixtures of cotton and silk from Ghana and Nigeria, knitted objects from the Cameroons, cut-pile embroidery from the Kasai area of Zaire, painted textiles from the Ivory Coast, applique from Dahomey, and strip weave from Upper Volta. Lengths of cloth as well as skirts, trousers, robes and costumes are shown.

Body ornaments and personal accessories include rings, bracelets, anklets, necklaces, pendants and earrings; in gold, silver, brass, iron, ivory, straw and leather. They range from delicate bead necklaces of the Zulu to massive brass Ibo anklets, and from the exquisite workmanship of Ashanti gold to brutally powerful forms from Liberia.

Among the symbols of high status are fans, batons and whisks. Cosmetic accoutrements include containers for body paint as well as razors, combs, hairpins, wigs and tweezers.

Hair styles and body paint will be shown in photographs of contemporary examples, as well as in reproductions of engravings from books published by the early western travelers in Africa. Because African head ornaments are particularly inventive, the exhibition will include hats, crowns and feather top knots, grouped together in a "Hat Bar."

(more)

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SCULPTURE FROM THE COLLECTION

September 22 - October 29, 1972
Northwest and Far West Galleries

CHECKLIST

Note: Unless enclosed in parentheses dates appear on the works themselves. In dimensions height is followed by width and then depth. The last two figures of the accession number indicate the year of acquisition.

Jean (Hans) ARP. French, born Alsace. 1887-1966

Constellation. (1932). Painted wood relief, 11 3/4 x 13 1/8 x 2 3/8". The Sidney and Harriet Janis Collection. 576.67

Relief. (1938-39, after a relief of 1934-35). Wood, 19 1/2 x 19 5/8". Gift of the Advisory Committee (by exchange). 336.39

Vladimir BARANOFF-ROSSINE. Russian, 1888-1942. In Paris from 1925

Symphony Number 1. (1913). Polychrome, wood, cardboard and crushed eggshells, 63 1/4 x 28 1/2 x 25". Katia Granoff Fund. 35.72

Louise BOURGEOIS. American, born France 1911

Sleeping Figure. (1950). Balsa wood, 74 1/2" high. Katharine Cornell Fund. 3.51

Constantin BRANCUSI. French, born Rumania. 1876-1957. To Paris 1904

Socrates. (1923). Wood, 51 1/4" high. Mrs. Simon Guggenheim Fund. 187.56

The Cock. Version 1 (1924). Walnut, 47 5/8" high including cylindrical base, 11 1/2" high. Gift of LeRay W. Berdeau. 620.59

Raoul HAGUE. American, born Constantinople of Armenian parents 1905. To U.S.A. 192

Plattekill Walnut. (1952). Walnut, 35 5/8 x 27 3/4 x 22 5/8". Elizabeth Bliss Parkinson Fund. 249.56

Barbara HEPWORTH. British, born 1903

Hollow Form (Penwith). (1955-56). Lagos wood, partly painted, 35 3/8 x 25 7/8 x 25 5/8", attached to wood base 35 7/8 x 23 1/2 x 3". Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Lejwa. 7.60

Frederick KIESLER. American, born Austria. 1890-1965. To U. S. A. 1926

Totem for All Religions. (1947). Wood and rope, 9'4 1/4" x 34 1/8 x 30 7/8", upper rope extensions: left, 34 1/4", right, 33 1/4". Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Armand P. Bartos. 45.71

Gabriel KOHN. American, born 1910

Acrotere. (1960). Laminated wood, 35 1/4 x 31 x 22 1/4". Given anonymously (by exchange). 559.63

Henri LAURENS. French, 1885-1954

Head. (1918). Wood construction, painted, 20 x 18 1/4". Van Gogh Purchase Fund. 263.37

Michael LEKAKIS. American, born 1907

Ptisis (Soaring). (1957-62). Oak, 34 7/8 x 25 1/2 x 15 3/4", on pine base 12 x 11 3/8 x 11" and mahogany pedestal 41 7/8 x 10 5/8 x 10 1/8". Gift of the artist through the Ford Foundation Purchase Program. 74.63

José Dolores LOPEZ. American, c. 1880 - c. 1939

Adam and Eve and the Serpent. (c. 1930). Cottonwood, tree 24 7/8" high; figures 13" and 14" high, garden 8 1/2 x 21 1/4". Gift of Mrs. Meredith Hare. 106.43

Henry MOORE. British, born 1898

Two Forms. (1934). Pynkado wood, 11 x 17 3/4" on irregular oak base 21 x 12 1/2". Sir Michael Sadler Fund. 207.37

Mother and Child. (1938). Elmwood, 30 3/8 x 13 7/8 x 15 1/2". Acquired through the Lillie P. Bliss Bequest. 21.53

H. C. WESTERMANN. American, born 1922

Death Ship of No Port with a List. 1969. Model ship hull of redwood in wood box with leather, metal and rope fittings, ship 6 3/4 x 30 1/2 x 7 1/8", box 10 7/8 x 38 7/8 x 12 3/8". Extended loan from William N. Copley. E.L. 70.1420

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The Guest Director, Roy Sieber, Professor of Art at Indiana University, who selected the material in the show, has spent many years in Africa. He is also the author of the first comprehensive pictorial survey of these African arts to be published by the Museum in October. It is designed to provide a useful addition to the growing literature in African studies, and to stimulate an appreciation of this decorative material to those unfamiliar with its beauty and variety.*

Arthur Drexler, Director of the Museum's Department of Architecture and Design, has planned the installation of the exhibition. All the objects and textiles have been borrowed from public and private collections in this country.

African art has been known to the western world since Portuguese explorers first visited the West African coast almost 500 years ago. In this century the West has come to understand and appreciate the power and beauty of African sculpture, but textiles, body ornaments and jewelry have remained largely unknown to all but collectors and museum curators.

AFRICAN TEXTILES AND DECORATIVE ARTS is presented under the auspices of the International Council of The Museum of Modern Art. After the New York showing, the exhibition will be shown at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, (March 20 - May 31, 1973) the M. H. de Young Memorial Museum, San Francisco, (July 2 - August 31, 1973) and the Cleveland Museum of Art, (October 2 - December 2, 1973).

*AFRICAN TEXTILES AND DECORATIVE ARTS by Roy Sieber. 240 pages; 244 illustrations 40 in color. Published by The Museum of Modern Art, NY. Paper \$7.95. Clothbound edition \$15 distributed by New York Graphic Society, Ltd.

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019
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