





## Non-Western Art History

### African Masks and Masquerades

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African Mask and Masquerades

End







Africa

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African Mask and Masquerades

End





#### African Masks

- Are not sculpture, they are part of a performance
- The masks are spiritual beings from the otherworld
- The masker is subsumed into the otherworld being who is now truly present.
- Spirits are of ancestors or from nature and each has their own gestures and movements
- Spirits command, manipulate and represent powerful spiritual, natural or social forces

Source: *A History of Art in Africa*. By Visona, Poynor, Cole, Harris, Pearson/Prentice Hall, Inc. 2001

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African Mask and Masquerades

End





#### African Masquerades

- A masquerade is played for an audience, activated by music, dance and dramatic action, sometimes with singing
- Masquerades are part of a larger ritual, especially rituals of human passage - planting, harvest, initiation, weddings, funerals
- Masquerades are danced to effect change in the community
  - Children into adults
  - Seedlings into productive crops
  - Sickness into health
  - Crime into judicial resolution
  - Elders into ancestors

Source: *A History of Art in Africa*. By Visona, Poynor, Cole, Harris, Pearson/Prentice Hall, Inc. 2001

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African Mask and Masquerades

End







*Two Bwa Masks in Performance.*  
 1984, H: 7 feet,  
 Unknown Bwa Artist,  
 Scan: *Art History* by Marilyn Stokstad

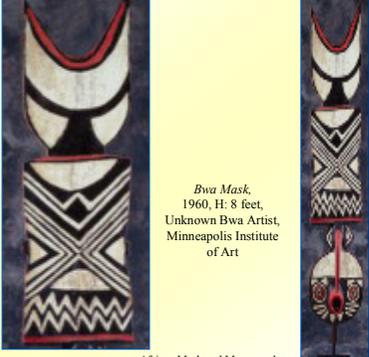
5

African Mask and Masquerades

End





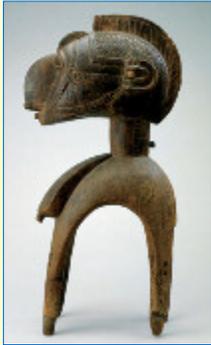


*Bwa Mask,*  
 1960, H: 8 feet,  
 Unknown Bwa Artist,  
 Minneapolis Institute  
 of Art

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African Mask and Masquerades

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*Female Dance Headdress.*  
Early 20th century, H: 45 inches,  
Unknown Baga Artist,  
Cincinnati Art Museum

African Mask and Masquerades

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*Senufo Funeral Masquerade, 1984,*  
Unknown Senufo Artists,  
Photo by Anita J. Glaze,  
Scan: *The History of Art in Africa,*  
by Visona, Poynor, etc.

African Mask and Masquerades

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*Basinjom Mask and Gown,*  
1972, H: 85 inches,  
Unknown Ejagham Artist, Nigeria  
Scan: *African Art* by P. McCluskey

African Mask and Masquerades

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*Four Egungun Masqueraders, 1992, Unknown Yoruba Artists,*  
Nigeria, Photo by Marilyn Houlberg,  
Scan: *The History of Art in Africa* by Visona, Poynor, etc.

African Mask and Masquerades

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*Pair of Gelede Masqueraders Dancing, 1970,*  
Imeko, Nigeria, Photo: Eliot Elisofon,  
Scan: *African Art* by P. McCluskey

African Mask and Masquerades

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*Gelede Mask, 1992,*  
Unknown Yoruba Artist,  
Photo by Elio Elisofon,  
Scan: *Art Beyond The West*  
by O'Riley

African Mask and Masquerades

End

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✦ Click here for a video of a Gelede Masquerade: 

*Gelede Mask: Male Wearing Glasses, 20th century, H: 9.5 inches, Unknown Yoruba Artist, Scan: African Art by P. McCluskey*

**End**

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*Dogon Maskers Wearing Kanaga Masks, 1959, Unknown Sanga Artists, Mali, Scan: A History of Art in Africa, Visona, Poynor, etc.*

**End**

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*Dogon Mask Ceremony, No Date, Unknown Photographer, Scan: randaficanart.com*

**End**

16 African Mask and Masquerades

✦ Click here for a video of Dogon Maskers: 

*Two Dogon Kanaga Masks, 2005, Joan and Lou Rose, Web: ramblingrose.com*



**End**

17 African Mask and Masquerades

✦ Click here for a video of Yacouba stilt walkers, Ivory Coast, 1993: 

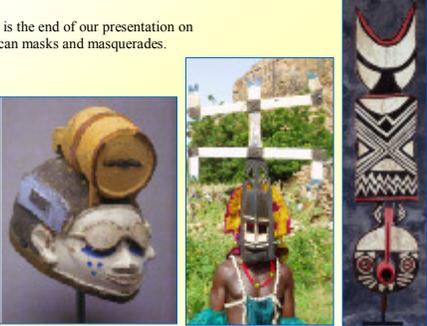
*Two Dogon Stilt Walkers, 2005, Joan and Lou Rose, Web: ramblingrose.com*



**End**

18 African Mask and Masquerades

✦ This is the end of our presentation on African masks and masquerades.



**End**