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C&T 201
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Notes over Class Discussion on African Art

Discussion Topics Brought up by Students:

1. Divination Instrument (Indiana University Art Museum)
2. Healing of the Abiku Children (IMA)
3. Helmet Mask for Poro Association (IMA)
4. Female Figure (akuaba)
5. Did all African art serve a purpose?
6. Onabanjo of Itu Meko

Topics Covered in Class Discussion

1. Divination Instrument:



- Believed it to be a judging tool.
- From the Democratic Republic of Congo
- Functional art. Relatively recent.
- Question brought up what does the head represent? Is it human or god?

2. Healing of the Akibu Children



- Painted by Twins Seven-Seven
 - It shows a cycle of death
 - Point of the painting is to try to stop the cycle of twins dying and being reborn. This can be seen by the two children by the egg shaped vase (not pictured). Go to <http://www.ima.museum/cycles/index.html> to see full image.
 - The woman has 11 toes. Why?
 - African art is not very realistic.
 - Although it looks ancient, it is actually quite modern. (made in 1973)
3. Helmet Mask (go to <http://www.ima.museum/cycles/index.html> to see image)
- Mask for spirit that would scare young boys entering pueberty
 - It would “eat boys alive and spit them out as men”
 - Mask covered whole body, however it was very hard to see out of.
4. Female Figure (go to <http://www.ima.museum/cycles/index.html> to see image)
- Supposedly perfect baby
 - It has a long neck. Sign of beauty? Think of other African tribes with rings around their necks.
 - Abstract-it can represent a perfect child although it doesn’t look like one.
 - It is very proportional
 - Possible practice tool for expectant mothers?