Samer Kawak Cultures and Traditions African Art (Notes) December 8, 2008

- Passage Selection
  - How to view it?
  - How was it made?
  - Slave trade?
  - African/primitive focus
  - Common items/bowls (p. 11)
  - o Picture (p. 8)
  - First African art Ph.D. (p. 2)
  - How to exhibit this art (p. 10)
  - Coffins (p. 1)
- Do we have this problem with Western art in terms of context or environment?
  - o The general work of art these days has no context, for example, abstract art
  - Art for art's sake
  - We don't have this problem because Western culture centers around written wrote and preservation
- How to view it?
  - The art has a meaning depending on how it is interpreted by the person
    - Art from a circumcision ceremony
    - Art from an execution
- What can we take in our culture and define it as art too?
  - Computer art
- We see more artistic qualities in different cultural point of views
- Losing touch with everyday art because people are accustomed to it
- Art 1: Man/horse on a stand
  - Spear is twisted
  - Man's head is curled back (hat)
  - Man is going to hunt rather than to fight in war
  - Art is from Mali (from the Sundiata area)
  - $\circ$  Most types of these sculptures are held on a spear instead of a stand
  - Hat on hunter from the art is on hunter or griot
  - Horse legs are straight
  - Hunters legs are curled
  - Put in the entrance of family homes, in trees, grounds of funerals, and also appear during initiations
  - Different groups of people view these differently
  - Guard the tombs of ancestors
  - Made of iron
    - Blacksmith's were powerful people during Sundiata's age; therefore, the art is powerful
    - Iron from the Earth, art connected to Earth
- 1910 African Hall at the American Museum of Natural History

- Art with art makes art
- It seems very symmetrical
- o Clustered
- Mask, Door lock, Heddle/Pulley, Figure, seated female holding bowl on head
  - Can everything be viewed as art?
  - Art is something that is not commonly seen by the people of the culture
- How do you define art?
  - Art is something that evolves feelings and communicates passion
    - Beauty
    - Creativity
  - But what about artists who take commonplace items and put them in different contextual situations
- Untitled, 1977. Ana Mendieta
- Respect to see art for art's sake
- False arch on campus last year
  - Played with people's emotions