

Early Art of the African Continent Part One

The Sahel, Savannah, Western Africa, and Guinea Coast,

Seeking an Answer:

Why are 90-95% of Africa's known cultural heritage artifacts housed outside the continent of Africa?



Art Week Four

West Africa and the Guinea Coast





Lidded
Saltcellar,
Sierra Leone,
Sapi-
Portugese,
15th-16th
century, ivory,
29.8 cm high

**16th century
end-blown Ivory
Olifant carved
by the Sapi in
Sierra Leone,
depicting
various hunting
scenes and the
Portuguese
court of arms
and armillary
sphere.**



Man's robe
(*boubou* or *kusaibi*) (back),
1920s or earlier,
unrecorded Mandinka
artists, northern Liberia
or eastern Sierra Leone,
cotton and silk; 36 x 66
inches



Bundu or Soweï
Helmet Mask
(Ndoli Joweï),
Mende, Nguabu
Master
(Moyamba
district, Sierra
Leone), late
19th-early 20th
century, wood
and pigment,
39.4 x 23.5 x 26
cm (Brooklyn
Museum)





Gongoli mask by Mende artist, Sierra Leone, of wood, mid-to-late 20th century.

Staff of Office: Figures, spider web and spider motif (*ökyeame*) (detail), 19th–early 20th century, Ghana, Akan peoples, Asante, gold foil, wood, nails, 156.5 x 14.6 x 5.7 cm





Memorial Head (Ntiri), 17th century (?), Ghana,
Adanse traditional area, Fomena, Akan people,
31.3 x 19 x 14.5 cm ([The Metropolitan Museum of Art](#))



Cloth (detail),
1968 (Asante
people),
stamped and
embroidered
cotton, 221 x
140 cm





Kente cloth (Asante and Ewe peoples)



Owie Kimou, Portrait Mask (*Mblo*) of Moya Yanso, Baule peoples (Côte d'Ivoire), early 20th century, wood, brass, pigment, 36.2 cm high

Pair of Diviner's Figures,
19th–mid-20th century
(Baule peoples, Côte
d'Ivoire), wood, pigment,
beads and iron, 55.4 x
10.2 x 10.5 cm (The
Metropolitan Museum of
Art;



Commemorative Figure (*Lefem*), 19th–early
20th century, Bangwa, wood, organic
matter, fiber, Cameroon, Grassfields region





Full mask; right: face of mask (detail). Mask (mbap mteng), early 1900s (Bamileke peoples), cotton, burlap, glass beads, twine, leather, and wood,

*Ceremonial Palm Wine
Vessel, 19th–20th century
(Grassfields region,
Cameroon), gourd, glass
beads, cloth, cane, wood,
76.2 x 30.8 x 19.7 cm (*



Figure from a Reliquary Ensemble: Seated Female, 19th–early 20th century (Fang peoples, Okak group, Gabon or Equatorial Guinea), wood, metal, 64 x 20 x 16.5 cm (T



617 Byeri reliquary figure, Fang, Gabon. The Byeri Figure used as a guardian statue to surmount the Reliquary Byeri Box in which bones of important ancestors were held.



An Ntem River Valley
Master. *Reliquary Guardian Figure*
(*Eyema-o-Byeri*), mid-18th to mid-
19th century. Wood, iron,



Kota
Late 19th to early 20th century
Object Place: Haut-Ogooué or
Ogooué-Lolo province, Gabon



Mask, late 19th century
Lumboexpand_more
Wood, pigments

