

Arts 2L / INTL 24: Arts of Africa Midterm Study Guide

The following terms will be discussed in class. Study these terms and the reading questions in preparation for the midterm exam. Additional reading questions will be given out in class in the next few weeks.

Animism	Terracotta – Inland Niger Delta
reception theory	D’Jenne (Jenne)
Nok terracotta	Adobe architecture
Ife (Yoruba Kingdom)	Mopti
Oni - ruler	Dogon figurative sculpture
brass commemorative heads, figures	Sacrificial patina
lost-wax casting	Nyama
Benin Kingdom	Nommo
Guild	Blacksmith
Oba	Equestrian figure
Iyoba (Queen Mother)	Primordial couple
Royal iconography	Dama
ivory waist mask	Kanaga
Idia	Postcolonial
16th-17th c. brass plaques	Ecotourism
British Punitive Expedition, 1897	Dogon granary
repatriation	Togu na
hierarchical representation	Senufo sculpture
Ivory salt cellar	Poro mask
Yoruba beadwork	Sandogo
Yoruba wood sculpture - artistic criteria	Kpellie mask
Arowogun (Areogun) of Osi Ilorin (1880-1954)	Bamana art
Olowe of Ise (c. 1875 - 1938)	N’tomo mask
Orisha	Mud cloth – Bokolanfini (Bogolanfini)
Eshu elegba	Ironwork
Shango	Tourist market
Ifa divination	Chi Wara
Ibeji – twin figure	Boli

Reading Questions:

These questions will help you prepare for the midterm exam. Additional questions will be given out in class over the next few weeks.

Blier, Suzanne P. *The Royal Arts of Africa*: pp. 11-16.

1. Describe a Yoruba ruler’s beaded regalia.
2. What types of African art reinforce the political authority of rulers? What qualities of kingship are revealed in the royal arts of Africa?
3. Why does Blier believe it is better to study a few African kingdoms in depth rather than a broader survey of many kingdoms? What does she mean by a “timeless” reading (p.12)?
4. What aspects characterize royal portraits in African art?
5. What were some of the common characteristics of palace architecture in many African kingdoms before the 20th century?