

Arts 2L / INTL 24 Arts of Africa
Reading Questions: Week 2-4.

Study the following questions for the Midterm Exam.

Posted reading 2 Nok and Ife – Lifschitz, Ed, *The Art of West African Kingdoms*

6. What do archaeologists know or assume about Nok culture?
7. What are some of the key characteristics of Nok art? How do Nok examples differ from pieces found at Igbo-Ukwu?
8. What can we learn about the Oni (Yoruba King) of Ife (between the 12th and 15th centuries) by studying Ife portrait sculptures?

Suzanne Blier – *Royal Arts of Africa*

pp. 43-71

9. How was brass casting used as an art form in honor of the royalty of the Benin Kingdom?
10. Briefly describe the architecture of the Benin Kingdom during the reign of Ewuare. What were some of the characteristics of this leader's politics?
11. What role did animals play in Benin art (iconography)?
12. How were brass plaques used at the Benin palace?

pp. 79-96.

13. What types of artwork do the Yoruba use to show the power and authority of kings?
14. Describe Ifa divination.
15. Who is Eshu? How is he depicted in art?
16. How are Ibeji related to Shango?
17. What types of themes are depicted on Gelede headdresses?

Class reading - posted on faculty website as “Arts of Mali - Class Reading 3” (Dogon) - Perani and Smith, *The Visual Arts of Africa* - Week 4

18. What are the two principal types of societies in the Western Sudan?
19. Who are the Nommo? How did early 20th-century scholars, such as Marcel Griaule, interpret Dogon figurative sculpture?
20. What subjects are common in Dogon sculpture?
21. What are some of the possible problems in providing an interpretation of Dogon masks or headdresses?
22. Describe some key characteristics of Dogon architecture.
23. How are gender roles revealed through the use of Senufo sculpture?
24. What is the role of the Sandogo diviner?
25. How is Bokolanfini (Bogolanfini) cloth made?
26. What does the Chi Wara headdress represent? What is the purpose of the Chi Wara association?
27. What is a Boli? Do you think a Boli should be considered ‘art’?