

# CULTURAL AND CREATIVE ART (CCA)

## NIGERIAN TRADITIONAL ARTS

Art is a means of self-expression.

### Prehistoric Art

Prehistoric art is also known as cave art or art of early men. It is the art of people who lived about 200,000BC before events were recorded. The era could be referred to as palaeolithic, prehistoric, or stone age.

### Traditional Nigerian Art

Traditional Nigerian arts are the arts done by Nigerians before the influence of modern western civilization or before the coming of the Europeans to Nigeria. Traditional Nigeria arts are:

Nok art, Igbo ukwu art, Ife art, Benin art, Esie art, Mbari art, Tsoede/Nupe art etc.

### NOK ART

Date of production: according to radiocarbon dating, they were produced in about 500BC– 200AD

**Locations of Nok:** Nok village is located in Zaria, Kaduna State.

**Discovery:** Nok artworks were discovered by tin miners while they were mining for tin ore.

**Excavation:** Nok art was excavated by Bernard Fagg in 1943.

**Objects discovered:** mostly human heads and animal figures.

**Material used by Nok artists:** terracotta (fired or baked clay).

**Locations where Nok arts were found:** Jema, Wamba, Kagoro, Tave, old Kafanchan, Gold Coffer, Kastina Ala, and old Abuja.

Nok art is the oldest art in Nigeria.

### Characteristics of Nok art

1. Triangular shaped eyes.
2. Hole in the mouth, ears, pupils of the eyes, and nostrils.
3. Crown shaped head-dresses.
4. Conical or cylindrical shaped head.
5. Their human figures were decorated with beads.

### Styles of Nok art.

1. Highly stylized.
2. Some are near naturalistic.
3. Some are abstract.

**IGBO UKWU ART:**

*Date of productions:* 9th & 10th century AD (900 – 1000AD).

*Location:* Igbo-ukwu is located in Aguata L.G.A of Anambra State.

*Discovery:* Igbo-ukwu art was discovered by Isaiah Anozie, when he was digging a water cistern.

**Excavation:** Igbo-ukwu art was excavated by Thurstan Shaw in 1938, 1959 and 1964.

**The locations where Igbo-ukwu arts were found:** Isaiah Anozie's, Richard Anozie's and Jonah Anozie's compounds.

**Objects discovered at Igbo-ukwu:** bronze roped pot, bronze pendant, small crescent-shaped bowl, bronze snake, bronze bells, etc.

**The material used:** bronze.

### **Characteristics of Igbo-ukwu arts**

- i. They have intricate designs.
- ii. All the works are made in rich bronze.
- iii. Some of the works show evidence of good relationships with Ife and Benin bronze culture.

### **Functions of Igbo-ukwu arts**

Some of the objects were mostly ritual and ceremonial objects.

## **IFE ART**

**Location:** Ife is located in Osun State. And it is believed to be the ancestral home of the Yorubas.

**Excavation:** the site was excavated by a German ethnographer, Leo Frobenius in 1910. Locations where Ife artworks were found:

- (1). Wunmonije's compound.
- (2). Ita Yemoo

**Objects discovered:** 20 and a half bronze heads were dug out from Wunmonije's compound.

At Ita Yemoo, some bronze of a royal pair with interlocking hands and feet were found.

**Date of productions:** according to radiocarbon dating, they were produced in about 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century AD (1100-1400AD).

**Materials used:** terracotta, stone carving, wood carving, bronze and copper

**Method of production:** lost wax method also called cire perdue method.

### **Characteristics of Ife Art**

- i. They have short and narrow ears.
- ii. Some of the heads have holes along their hairline and moustache.
- iii. Many of the heads are life-size.
- iv. Most Ife heads carry crest or cap.
- v. Ife bronze and terracotta have long narrow eyes.
- vi. They have tribal marks on their faces (facial scarification).

### **Style of Ife Art**

1. The works were done in a naturalistic style.

2. The works were also done in idealized style; this means that they produced the image of the king the way they wanted it, not the actual representation.

### **Functions of Ife Art**

1. It is used for rituals.
2. It is used for funeral ceremonies.
3. It is used for decorations of tombs and temples.

## **BENIN ARTS**

Benin art was practised in the palace of the Oba (king) of Benin **Location:** Benin is the capital of Edo State.

**Discovery:** Benin art was discovered by the British during the punitive expedition in 1897 when a good number of Benin bronze works were looted by the British colonial government. They are today preserved in the British Museum.

Their 16th-century ivory mask which was produced by Joseph Alufu Igbonovia was chosen as a symbol of FESTAC '77.

**(FESTAC: Means Festival of Art and Culture)**

**Date of productions:** Benin art dated about 1400AD.

Aim of the art: it was for the glorification of the Oba and his family, thereby, making Benin art, court art.

**Materials used:** bronze, ivory, stone and wood.

Example of Objects discovered in Benin:

1. They show the bronze head of their Obas.
2. Free-standing figures of warriors.
3. Figures on horseback.
4. Bronze plaques depicting kings, warriors, and hunters.
5. Vessels for holding water used in ceremonial washing of Oba's hand.

### **Characteristics of Benin art**

1. Their memorial heads wear collar beads up to the chin.
2. Figures stood on bare floor.
3. Faces are formalized, eyes wide open and large.
4. Figures are solemn without emotion.

### **STYLES Benin Art**

1. Their works are naturalistic.
2. Their works are also idealistic.
3. Benin works are symbolic.

### **Functions of Benin Art**

It was for the glorification of the Oba and his family.

## **ESIE ART**

Esie is small Yoruba town near Ilorin in Kwara State. Esie is known for the largest collection of soapstone figures in Africa. 800 soapstone figures were found in a bush in this town by a German ethnographer in 1911. More figures were later discovered in

1933. The figures are made up of male and female sculptural pieces. Esie is sometimes referred to as the home of 800 soapstone figures.

## **Characteristics of Esie Art**

1. The faces of the figures have tribal marks like those of Ife.
2. Some stood on short legs while others sit on mushroom-shaped stools holding an object in their hands.
3. Some of the female figures, kneel in front of water pots.
4. Some figures wear beads around the neck and sometimes around the wrist.
5. The figures either wear hats or specially designed headdresses, etc.

## **The Function of Esie Art**

They were used as objects of worship.

## **Functions of Nigerian Traditional Artwork.**

1. Religious function/worship.
2. Employment for talented craft men.
3. Decorative functions.
4. Historical functions.
5. Tourism.
6. It serves an economic purpose

## **CONTEMPORARY NIGERIAN ARTS AND ARTISTS**

### **Contemporary art of Nigeria**

This is the modern Nigerian art which was influenced by European or Western culture.

This is the art taught in Nigerian schools today. It is the mixture of tradition and modernism. Contemporary Nigeria art started from the first art school in Nigeria. The college of art, science and technology, Zaria, Kaduna State which was later renamed Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

### **Nigerian Contemporary Artists**

They are Nigerian artists who were trained in Nigeria or American or any other place in the world. Thus, they have had foreign influence as a result of modern education practices which have exposed them to the use of foreign materials, ideas, and values.

### **Nigerian contemporary artists include:**

1. Aina Onabolu: a painter, art educator and father/founder of modern Nigerian art.
2. Akinola Lasekan: a painter and cartoonist.
3. Ben Enweonwu: a painter and sculpture.
4. Bruce Onabrakpeya: a painter and printmaker.
5. Yusuf Grillo: art educator and painter.
6. Kolade Osinowo: a painter.

7. Ladi Kwali: a famous Nigerian female potter in Abuja.
8. Uche Okeke: a painter and art historian.
9. Mrs Clara Etso Ugbodaga: art educator.
10. Prof. Irene S. Wangboje: art educationist and graphic designer, etc.

The first African to teach art in Nigeria was Mrs. Clara Etso Ugbodaga Ndu at College of Art, Science and Technology Zaria, Kaduna State which was later renamed Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, Kaduna State.

## **COLLAGE**

Collage is the method of creating a picture on board by sticking pieces of paper, thread, wool and any other soft material with adhesive.

### **Materials for making a collage**

1. Background support: plywood, hardboard, cardboard, paper, carton, canvas.
2. Paper to be cut into pieces: magazines, wrapping sheet, photograph, etc.
3. Adhesive: glue, starch.
4. Pencil.

### **Tools**

Scissors or cutter.  
Brush.

### **Uses of collage**

1. It is used for decoration.
2. It is used to make money when sold.
3. Collage is used to create a background or pattern on which pictures can be composed.

### **Making collage**

1. Make a sketch of the subject of collage on the hard surface.
2. Apply gum on the sketch on the hardboard.
3. Paste pieces of cut papers like calendars, magazine, newspapers, coloured papers, etc. on the board.
4. Allow the picture to dry very well before display.

## **MOSAIC**

This is the creating of images with small pieces of coloured glass, stones, or any other hard materials by sticking them with adhesive on a hard surface.

### **Materials**

1. Glass
2. Mirror
3. Pebbles
4. Glue
5. Shell
6. Beads

7. Marble
8. Broken bottles
9. Bottles caps.
10. Pen.

## Tools

1. Plier
2. Knife
3. Mallet

## Uses of mosaic

1. It is used for decorative purpose.
2. It is used to make money when sold.
3. It can be used as gifts.

## Differences between collage and mosaic

Hard objects are such as pebbles, stone, beads, broken bottles, etc are used to make mosaic. While soft materials are used to make collage such as wool, thread, paper, cloth, etc.

## Similarities between collage and mosaic

4. They all require a hard surface board for the background.
5. Sticking is involved in mosaic and collage.
6. They all require the same procedure for production.
7. They are both used in decoration.
8. Both mosaic and collage make use of drawing and cutting tools.

## SCALE

The word " scale " is gotten from the Latin word *scala* which means a ladder.

A scale is a series of 8 notes in alphabetical order beginning from any note and ending with its octave.

A scale can be defined as a ladder of notes moving upwards or downwards in a stepwise manner from any note to its octave or eighth degree. Scales can appear in this form:

**Letters:** C D E F G A B C

**Solfa:** d r m f s l t d<sup>1</sup>

**Degrees:** 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th

## Kinds of Scale

There are two kinds of scale namely:

1. Diatonic
2. Chromatic

## Major and minor scale

**These two scales are examples of diatonic scale:**

The difference between them is the order in which the tones and semitones occur.

**Diatonic scale:** This is a scale that consists of 5 tones and 2 semitones. It has 8 notes, there

are two types of diatonic, namely: major scale and minor scale.

**Chromatic scales:** This scale is built up of 13 notes with 12 semitones. It has no tones.

**Major scale:** The major scale is built up of 8 notes with semitones occurring at 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> degrees of the scale.

## TONE

**Tone** is the distance between two notes on the keyboard.

**SEMITONE:** This is the shortest distance between any two neighbouring note on the keyboard.

**TETRACHORD:** when the 8 notes of the diatonic major scale are divided into two equal parts of 4 notes each, each group of 4 notes is called a tetrachord. The first 4 notes CDEF is called the lower or first tetrachord while the second, four notes GABC is called the upper tetrachord or second tetrachord.

### Technical names of the degrees of the scale

S/N	Technical name	Solfa name	Degree of the scale
1	Tonic/keynote/home note	Doh(d)	1 <sup>st</sup> degree
2	Supertonic	Ray (r)	2 <sup>nd</sup> degree
3	Mediant	Me (m)	3 <sup>rd</sup> degree
4	Subdominant	Fah(f)	4 <sup>th</sup> degree
5	Dominant	Soh (s)	5 <sup>th</sup> degree
6	Sub mediant	Lah(l)	6 <sup>th</sup> degree
7	Leading note	Te (t)	7 <sup>th</sup> degree
8	Octave/1 <sup>st</sup> tonic	Doh(d <sup>1</sup> )	8 <sup>th</sup> degree

## RECORDER

Recorder is a whistle-like musical instrument in the woodwind family. It contains eight holes from where different sounds and notes are produced when air is blown into it. Recorders are made of wood, plastic or ivory.

### Types of recorder

There are four major types of recorder:

1. Descant (soprano/treble)
2. Alto,
3. Tenor, and
4. Bass.

There are different sizes. The smallest is the descant recorder with a very high pitch while the

biggest is the bass with a very low pitch.

There are 8 holes in a recorder.

The recorder is usually played with two hands.

### Uses of recorder

1. The recorder can be used in schools for entertainment.
2. The recorder can be used as a solo instrument.
3. Recorder is a simple melodic instrument used for teaching music beginners.

4. It is used as accompaniment.
5. It helps one to express his feelings in music.
6. It is used in playing the national anthem, the school song and other simple tunes.

## **Basic Things to Know About Recorder Playing**

Recorder playing is made up of four elements:

1. Fingering/ thumbing.
2. Breath control.
3. Tonguing.
4. Musicianship.

## **Holding the Recorder**

1. Sit comfortably in a chair without arms.
2. Pick up the recorder with right hand round the middle section.
3. The recorder when held should be pointing at an angle at 45<sup>0</sup>.
4. The recorder can also be played while standing.

## **Care of the Recorder**

1. Never leave a recorder near a fire or in the hot sun.
2. Always warm up a recorder in the pocket or hands especially the head section
3. Cork joints should be occasionally greased with lanolin.
4. Keep the recorder in a box.
5. Never put it on a chair or table where it can roll-off.
6. Never touch with your finger or anything hard the fipple area of the recorder.
7. If dirt collects, clean it away with a soft feather.
8. Don't hold the recorder by the foot section, as this strains the lower joint.

## **PLAYING THE RECORDER**

1. Blow very gently and ensure that your tongue touches the roof of the mouth just below the front teeth. This is known as tonguing. You will always tongue each note
2. Repeat several times until you can play the note very well.

## **TEAMWORK AND SENSE OF BELONGING**

Team: means a group of two or more persons working together.

Teamwork means, working together with a group of people towards achieving a common goal.

## **Importance of Teamwork**

1. It helps an organisation to achieve a common goal.
2. Teamwork helps us to tolerate people and their character.
3. Working together as a team helps in problem-solving.
4. It makes the work or service to be faster.
5. Teamwork helps us to develop a sense of co-operation.

6. It encourages division of labour.

## **Sense of Belonging**

Sense of belonging means a feeling of being fully accepted within one's family, organisation, community or group of friends

### **How to Achieve Sense of Belonging**

1. Avoid discrimination: don't treat people differently or unfairly on the ground of their race, tribe, family etc.
2. Respect: this means to have a good opinion of someone.
3. Honesty: this is the ability, to tell the truth, not stealing, not telling lies or cheating others.
4. Hard work: this is the ability to work for a long period.
5. Sharing: this is the ability to use something jointly with others.
6. Good habits: these are those things we do without thinking and they are acceptable to society.
7. Greeting is a sign of respect, friendliness and good behaviour.
8. Friendliness: this is the ability to be kind, pleasant and in good terms with people.