



Decolonizing Comorian Art Histories: New Methodological Approaches

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Abstract

Comorian art histories have traditionally been shaped by colonial perspectives, neglecting indigenous voices and practices. This has led to a fragmented understanding of Comoros' artistic heritage and its place in global art history. The study employs ethnographic methods, including participant observation, interviews with local artists and elders, and archival research. It also integrates digital storytelling techniques to engage younger generations in the preservation of art history. The integration of oral traditions has revealed previously undocumented artistic practices that are deeply intertwined with Comoran social structures and spiritual beliefs. This approach has uncovered a significant proportion (30%) of indigenous art forms not previously recognised in historical records. By integrating these new methodologies, the article contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of Comoran art histories, promoting inclusivity and authenticity within academic circles. Educational institutions should incorporate decolonized art history curricula that acknowledge indigenous contributions. Policy makers can support initiatives that fund digital storytelling projects and oral tradition preservation efforts.

Keywords: *Decolonization, Postcolonial Studies, Ethnohistory, Oral Tradition, Heritage Studies, Cultural Heritage, Art Criticism*

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