



# Decolonizing Namibian Art Histories: New Perspectives and Methodologies

Makuaire Kauafo<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Namibia Agriculture Research Institute (NARI)

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**Correspondence:** [mkauafo@outlook.com](mailto:mkauafo@outlook.com)

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## Author notes

*Makuaire Kauafo is affiliated with Namibia Agriculture Research Institute (NARI) and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Namibia's art history has been largely Eurocentric, with a focus on colonial-era artworks and contemporary Western-inspired works. This study aims to decolonize Namibian art histories by incorporating indigenous perspectives and methodologies. This study employs a qualitative research approach involving interviews with artists, scholars, and community members to gather insights on the current state of Namibian art history. Ethnographic data analysis is used to interpret these interviews. Indigenous perspectives reveal that traditional cultural practices have been marginalized in official art histories, with only about 20% of artworks attributed to indigenous artists in major exhibitions and publications. Decolonization efforts are necessary to accurately represent Namibian artistic contributions. The introduction of indigenous methodologies promises a more inclusive and nuanced understanding of Namibian art history. Namibian cultural institutions should incorporate indigenous knowledge systems into their curricula, exhibitions, and publications to reflect the diversity of Namibian artistic heritage.

**Keywords:** *Decolonization, Postcolonialism, Ethnography, Oral Tradition, Narratology, Intercultural Studies, Multidisciplinarity*

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