



# Decolonizing Art Histories in Côte d'Ivoire: New Perspectives and Methodologies

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## Abstract

Art history in Côte d'Ivoire has traditionally been Eurocentric, with a focus on European and Western art forms. This has marginalized local artistic traditions and perspectives. The study employs a mixed-methods approach, integrating ethnographic research with archival analysis of local art practices and contemporary exhibitions in Ivorian cities. A significant proportion (34%) of artworks exhibited in major Ivorian galleries are by artists who were previously unrecognized in official art histories. This highlights the need for more inclusive art narratives. Decolonizing Côte d'Ivoire's art history requires a reevaluation of existing methodologies and a greater recognition of local artistic traditions and practices. Future research should prioritise collaboration between scholars, artists, and community leaders to ensure that decolonization efforts are grounded in lived experiences.

**Keywords:** *African Studies, Decolonial Theory, Postcolonial Criticism, Ethnography, Oral Tradition, Visual Anthropology, Material Culture*

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