



# Decolonizing African Art History in Nigeria: New Perspectives and Methodologies

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## Abstract

Decolonization in African art history has gained traction as a critical discourse within humanities scholarship, particularly in Nigeria where colonial legacies persist. The research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative interviews with academic literature analysis. Data collection involves expert consultations and archival research in Nigeria's leading museums and universities. Findings indicate that traditional art histories often centre on colonial-era figures and artifacts, overlooking contemporary artists and practices. A significant theme identified is the underrepresentation of women and marginalized communities within these narratives. The study concludes that decolonization necessitates a reevaluation of existing art historical frameworks to include diverse voices and perspectives. Methodologically, this involves integrating oral histories and community-based approaches into academic research. Recommendations for future scholars include the integration of indigenous methodologies in art history studies and the establishment of more inclusive curricula that reflect contemporary African realities.

**Keywords:** *African Studies, Decolonization, Postcolonial Theory, Cultural Materialism, Ethnography, Heritage Conservation, Visual Culture Analysis*

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