



# Decolonizing African Art History in Burkina Faso: New Perspectives and Methodologies

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## Abstract

Decolonizing African art history involves re-evaluating traditional narratives to include diverse perspectives and methodologies that challenge Eurocentric frameworks. The study employs a mixed-methods approach, integrating archival research with ethnographic fieldwork. It also utilizes digital humanities techniques for data analysis and visualization. Findings indicate that the integration of oral histories and community-based participatory methodologies significantly enrich art historical narratives in Burkina Faso, particularly highlighting the role of local artisans and cultural practices in regional artistic traditions. The study concludes by affirming the importance of collaborative research methods for a more inclusive and accurate representation of African art history. Recommendations include promoting interdisciplinary collaboration and digital literacy among scholars to enhance data accessibility, while also advocating for policy changes that support community-led documentation projects in art historical contexts. Decolonization, African Art History, Methodology, Burkina Faso

**Keywords:** *African Studies, Decolonization, Postcolonial Theory, Ethnography, Oral Tradition, Critical Race Theory, Gender Analysis*

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