



Decolonizing African Art History in Kenya: New Perspectives and Methodologies

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Abstract

Recent scholarly interest in African art history has highlighted the need for decolonization efforts to address historical biases and present a more inclusive narrative of artistic practices across the continent. The research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative interviews with local artists and community members, alongside quantitative analysis of archival materials such as museum records and historical documents. A notable finding is the significant underrepresentation of women in documented art history narratives from Kenya. This study aims to uncover their contributions through detailed archival research and oral histories. The comparative study underscores the importance of decolonizing African art history by integrating diverse voices into scholarly discourse, thereby fostering a more comprehensive understanding of artistic heritage across the continent. Future work should prioritise inclusivity in all phases of art historical scholarship, including curriculum development and public engagement initiatives. Collaboration between scholars, artists, and community leaders is recommended to ensure authenticity and relevance. African Art History, Decolonization, Kenya, Methodology, Inclusivity

Keywords: *Decolonization, Postcolonial Theory, Africana Studies, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Ethnography, Visual Anthropology, Decentering Approach*

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