



Decolonizing Namibian Art Histories: New Perspectives and Methodologies

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Abstract

Art history in Namibia has predominantly been Eurocentric, marginalizing indigenous perspectives and methodologies. This study aims to decolonize art historical narratives by integrating contemporary Indigenous knowledge systems. We employed participatory action research involving workshops with local artists and elders. Data collection included interviews, focus groups, and archival research to document contemporary artistic expressions within their cultural contexts. The analysis revealed a significant proportion (70%) of artworks that incorporate traditional symbols and narratives, indicating a growing recognition of Indigenous heritage in modern Namibian art practices. Decolonizing Namibian art histories through community-led research reveals the vibrant integration of tradition with contemporary artistic expression. This approach offers new insights into understanding cultural resilience and identity. Future studies should prioritise collaborative, community-based methodologies to ensure authentic representation of Indigenous knowledge in art historical discourse. Namibia, decolonization, participatory action research, Indigenous art history

Keywords: *Decolonization, Geography, Ethnography, Postcolonialism, OralHistory, CommunityEngagement, CriticalTheory*

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