



Decolonizing African Art History in Botswana: New Perspectives and Methodologies

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Abstract

Decolonization in African art history is a critical but underexplored area of study, particularly in Botswana where colonial influences have shaped artistic expressions and academic curricula. This study employs action research through participatory workshops with artists, educators, and community leaders. Data collection includes interviews, focus groups, and artifact analysis. Ethnographic methods ensure cultural sensitivity and validity. Participants identified the need to integrate oral traditions and contemporary art practices into academic discourse, emphasising a more holistic approach to understanding African artistic heritage. Themes of inclusivity, interdisciplinarity, and participatory research emerged as key directions for future work. The study underscores the importance of decolonizing African art history by fostering collaboration between traditional knowledge holders and contemporary scholars. This aligns with global calls for more inclusive and equitable academic practices. Recommendations include integrating indigenous perspectives into educational curricula, promoting interdisciplinary research projects, and establishing mentorship programmes to support emerging scholars from diverse backgrounds. Decolonization, African art history, Botswana, Participatory research, Indigenous knowledge systems

Keywords: *African, Botswana, Decolonization, Methodology, Postcolonial, Theory, Critique*

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