

GLOSSARY

abstract - imagery which departs from representational accuracy to a variable range of possible degrees by exaggerating or simplifying forms.

acculturation - the modification of the culture of a group or an individual as a result of contact with a different culture.

adinkra - are symbols common in Western African societies that represent concepts or aphorisms. Adinkra are used on fabric, walls, in pottery and logos. Fabric adinkra are often made by woodcut printing.

adorn - to enhance the appearance of especially with beautiful objects; to enliven or decorate as if with ornaments.

adornment - the action of adorning; something that adorns.

africanism - a characteristically African cultural feature.

Akan - is a group belonging to the Twi-speaking peoples of Ghana. The Asante are the best known and most populous of the Akan people.

ancestor - is a parent or the parent of an ancestor (i.e., a grandparent, great-grandparent, and so on). Some cultures place great reverence on ancestors, both living and dead; contrastingly, people in more youth-oriented cultural contexts may display a lesser degree of veneration for elders.

appliqué - a decoration or an ornament made by cutting pieces of one material and applying them to the surface of another.

art medium - the material or technique used by an artist to produce a work of art.

Asante - (Ashanti) are a major ethnic group from Africa who speak a dialect of Akan. The Ashanti Confederacy was a major state in western Africa, particularly from 1570 to 1900. Ashanti wealth was based on the region's substantial deposits of gold. These rich gold deposits led to metalworking among the Ashanti. Under successive paramount chiefs (called asantehenes), the kingdom participated in the African slave trade. The Ashanti captured people of surrounding regions and sold them to European slavers. In 1827, the Ashanti confederacy banned slave trading. The trade ceased in the early-to-middle 19th century. Ashanti was one of the few African states able to offer serious resistance to the European imperialists. The territory occupied by the Kingdom of Ashanti is now part of Ghana.

asantehene - is the ruler of the Ashanti people. While today it is a strictly ceremonial role, it was once a position of great power as the leader of the Ashanti Confederacy. The Asantehene is crowned on a golden stool, known as the Sika 'dwa and the office is sometimes referred to by this name. The stool was sacred, so that no one could sit, touch, or even approach it. The Asantehene also holds the title of Kumasehene, ruler of Kumasi, the capital and most important town of the Confederacy.

Asafo flags - Are created by the Fante people (see Fante) of Ghana. The word 'asafo' means 'sa' (war) and 'fo' (people). It refers to military organization, broken down into companies, originally formed to defend Ghana's coastline from attack by Europeans and from the inland Asante people.

asymmetry or asymmetrical balance - is when one side of a composition does not reflect the design of the other.

Asymmetrical balance is the kind of balance in which the parts of a design are organized so that one side differs from the other without destroying that composition's overall harmony. Consequently, when an asymmetrical design is disturbingly off balance, the result is disharmony. Also known as informal balance, asymmetry is the opposite of symmetry.

autobiographical - the biography of a person by that person.

balance - is a sense of stability in the body of work. Balance can be created by repeating same shapes and by creating a feeling of equal weight.

brushstroke - The observable stroke by the artist's brush on a ground support.

calabash - is a vine grown for its fruit, which can either be harvested young and used as a vegetable or harvested mature, dried, and used as a bottle, utensil, or pipe. One of the calabash subspecies is known as

the bottle gourd. The calabash was one of the first cultivated plants in the world, grown not for food but as a container.

ceremony - is an activity, infused with ritual significance, performed on a special occasion.

collage - a picture or design created by such basically flat elements as newspaper, wallpaper, printed text and illustrations, photographs, cloth, string, etc., to a flat surface.

commemorate - To call to remembrance; to mark by some ceremony or observation; to serve as a memorial.

community - is a unified body of individuals. A community includes people that usually share common interests living in a particular area. A community can be a nation, or a society at large, having a common history or common social, economic, and political interests.

composition - is the plan, placement or arrangement of the elements of art in a work. The general goal is to select and place appropriate elements within the work in order to communicate ideas and feelings with the viewer. It is the primary element in photography and an important concern in drawing. The primary elements of composition within a picture are: 1. the area within the picture used for the illustration; 2. the perspective, relating to spatial arrangements of objects within a picture, creating depth of field or giving the illusion of dimension or depth on a two-dimensional surface; 3. the line or direction followed by the viewer's eye when they observe the image; 4. the value, or degree of lightness and darkness, used within the

picture. The artist determines what the points of focus of the art will be, and composes the work accordingly. The eyes of the viewer will then tend to linger over these points of focus. The illustration can be arranged in a harmonious whole that works together to produce a statement.

contrast - is the juxtaposition of opposing elements, e.g., opposite colors on the color wheel – red/green, blue/orange, etc. Contrast in tone or value – light/dark. Contrast in direction – horizontal/vertical. Contrast can be used to attract attention to the area in the art work that is the center of interest.

cross-hatching - (see **hatching**)

diptych - is any object with two flat plates attached at a hinge. Devices of this form were quite popular in the ancient world, types existing for recording notes and measuring time and direction.

enstooled - is the ceremonial process of crowning a king.

erasure - the act or instance of erasing.

exaggeration - to enlarge or increase especially beyond the normal or truth; to make an overstatement.

expressive - expressive qualities are the feelings, moods, and ideas communicated to the viewer through a work of art.

fantasy - is a genre of art that uses magic and other supernatural forms as a primary element of plot, theme, or setting.

Fon - is a major West African ethnic and linguistic group in the country of Benin or Dahomey,

and southwest Nigeria. The Fon language is a member of the Gbe language group.

Fante - is a group of people that are a part of the Akan group in Ghana. The Fante are known for their military arts, including the Asafo flags.

gesture - [gesture drawing] is a line drawing, usually of a figure, which captures the movement and feel of the subject.

Ghana - A country in West Africa. Under British colonial rule this country was referred to as the Gold Coast. Upon independence the country was renamed Ghana after the great Ghanaian empire of West Africa.

Harambee - is a Kenyan tradition of community self-help events, eg. fundraising or community development activities. Harambee is also the official motto of Kenya. Harambee literally means “pulling together” in Swahili, and may range from informal affairs lasting a few hours in which invitations are spread by word of mouth, to formal, multi-day events advertised in newspapers. These events have long been important in parts of East Africa as ways to build and maintain communities. Following Kenya's independence in 1963, the first Prime Minister and later first President of Kenya Jomo Kenyatta adopted “Harambee” as a concept of pulling the country together to build a new nation. He encouraged communities to work together to raise funds for all sorts of local projects, pledging that the government would provide their startup costs. Under this system, wealthy individuals wishing to get into politics could donate large amounts of money to local

harambee drives, thereby gaining legitimacy; however, such practices were never institutionalized during Kenyatta's presidency.

harmony - agreement; accord. A union or blend of aesthetically compatible components. A composition is harmonious when the interrelationships between its parts fulfill aesthetic requisites or are mutually beneficial.

Harmony refers to a way of combining elements of art to accent their similarities and bind the picture parts into a whole. It is often achieved through the use of repetition and simplicity.

hatching - and cross-hatching are artistic techniques to create tonal or shading effects by drawing (or painting or scribing) closely spaced parallel lines. When lines are placed at an angle to one another, it is called cross-hatching. The main concept is that the quantity, thickness and spacing of line will effect the brightness of the overall image. By increasing quantity, thickness and closeness, you'll have a darker image.

identification - the act of identifying, see identity.

identity - the set of behavioral or personal traits by which an individual is recognized, and/or recognizable as a member of a group; the set of characteristics by which a thing is recognized or known.

Ile-Ife - a city (known as Ife today) in Nigeria that is thought of as the birthplace of Yoruba culture according to the myth of Oduduwa, the founder of Yoruba people.

individualism - is a term used to describe a moral, political, or social outlook, that stresses

human independence and the importance of individual self-reliance and liberty.

juxtaposition - is an act or instance of placing two things close together or side by side. This is often done in order to compare/contrast the two, to show similarities or differences, etc.

kente - a richly colored cloth.

Kenyatta, Jomo (October 20, 1892-August 22, 1978) was an African politician, the first Prime Minister (1963-1964) and President (1964-1978) of an independent Kenya. He is considered the founding father of the Kenyan Nation. Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport is named after him. He is also the great-uncle of Rage Against The Machine and Audioslave guitarist Tom Morello.

Kiswahili - (also called Swahili) is a Bantu language widely spoken in East Africa. Swahili is the mother tongue of the Swahili people who inhabit a 1500 km stretch of the East African coast from southern Somalia to northern Mozambique. It is spoken by over 50 million people. The name Swahili comes from the plural of the Arabic word *sabel: sawabil* meaning "boundary" or "coast" (used as an adjective to mean "coast dwellers" or, by extension, "coastal language"). Swahili is a national and official language in Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda. It is also spoken in Rwanda, Burundi, Congo (DRC), Somalia, Comoros Islands, Mozambique, and Malawi.

loom - a frame (or machine) on which weaving is done.

Mandela, Nelson - Leader of the African National Congress in South Africa who was imprisoned by the government of South Africa for 27 years. In 1994 he became the first Black president of South Africa and the last country to be free from colonial rule.

masquerade - is a public festivity in which central performers are concealed behind a mask and costume and perform (dance) with the accompaniment of music and singing. This festivity occurs usually in celebration, procession, or for a larger social purpose.

memorial - is an object served as a memory of something, usually a person (who has died) or an event.

metaphor - a figure of speech in which a word or phrase literally denoting one kind of object or idea is used in place of another to suggest a likeness or analogy between them.

narrative - is the art, technique, or process of telling a story or giving account or description of events.

Nkrumah, Kwame - The first president of Ghana after independence from Britain in 1957.

Nyerere, Julius - The first president of Tanzania who promoted African Socialism.

Oba- means divine king in the Yoruba culture.

Oduduwa - (Myth of Creation of Ile-Ife and Yoruba peoples) was the founder of Ile-Ife. He was sent from the heavens by Olodumare (the creator) to establish the earth and create its inhabitants after another minister of Olodumare, Obatala, failed to

do this. To this effect, Oduduwa was given a cock and a sack of sand since the earth was covered with water at the time. While climbing down from the heavens, he lost grip of the cock that started flying down and in his bid to catch the cock let loose the sack of sand. Sand started slipping down onto the water down below. Getting down, Oduduwa realized that the sand had formed a small "land hill" protruding from the water and that the cock had perched on it spreading the sand with its legs. The land started spreading forming the soil of the earth. He named the spot Ile n-fe, the earth was extending, and hence the name of Ile-Ife, the ancestral town of humanity and the Yoruba. Obatala later came down with the others and created the humans.

outline - or outline drawing is a diagram or silhouette, made with one line defining the perimeter of a form, flat and two-dimensional.

pattern - is the repetition of any thing – shapes, lines, or colors – also called a motif, in a design.

performance - in performing arts, generally comprises an event in which one group of people (the performer or performers) behave in a particular way for another group of people (the audience).

photomontage - is the process (and result) of making a composite picture by cutting and joining a number of photographs. The English photographer Henry Peach Robinson (1830-1901) is credited with making the first photomontages.

portrait - is a work of art that represents a specific person, a group of people, or an animal. Portraits usually show what a person looks like as well as revealing something about the subject's personality. Portraits can be made of any sculptural material or in any two-dimensional medium.

proverb - is a saying popularly known and repeated, usually expressing simply and concretely, though often metaphorically, a truth based on common sense or the practical experience of mankind. E.g., 'A stitch in time saves nine.' A proverb which describes a basic rule of conduct may also be known as a maxim. If a proverb is distinguished by particularly good style, it may be known as an aphorism.

quilting - is a method of sewing or tying two layers of cloth with a layer of insulating batting in between.

quilts - a large rectangular piece of quilting work.

racial segregation - is characterized by forced separation of people of different races in daily life when both are doing equal tasks, such as eating in a restaurant, drinking from a water fountain, using a restroom, attending school, going to the movies, or in the rental or purchase of a home.

racism - refers to a belief system that humans can be separated into various groups based on physical attributes and that these groupings determine cultural or individual achievement. This can lead to prejudice against individuals based on a perceived or ascribed "race". This racist outlook in assuming that the human species can be

meaningfully divided into races, often breeds ignorance, fear and hostility toward people of other races. Racism often includes the belief that people of different races differ in aptitudes and characteristics.

representational - is art renderings in which the natural world is depicted accurately.

ritual - is a set of actions, performed mainly for their symbolic value, which is prescribed by a religion or by the traditions of a community. A ritual may be performed at regular intervals, or on specific occasions, or at the discretion of individuals or communities. It may be performed by a single individual, by a group, or by the entire community; in arbitrary places, or in places especially reserved for it; either in public, in private, or before specific people. A ritual may be restricted to a certain subset of the community, and may enable or underscore the passage between religious or social states.

segregation - means separation and its specific meaning varies with the context; in this context it is the social separation of an individual from others.

self-portrait - a portrait an artist makes using himself or herself as its subject, typically drawn or painted from a reflection in a mirror.

shading - showing change from light to dark or dark to light in a picture by darkening areas that would be shadowed and leaving other areas light. Blending of one value into another is sometimes called feathering. Shading is often used to produce illusions of dimension and depth.

Sirleaf, Ellen Johnson - the first woman president in Liberia and the African continent, was inaugurated Jan. 16, 2004. She is a Harvard-educated banker who hopes to bring peace and unity.

stereotype - to give a fixed oversimplified conception or image.

symbol - [symbolic] something that stands for or suggests something else by reason of relationship, association, convention, or accidental resemblance; especially: a visible sign of something invisible (e.g., the lion is a symbol of courage).

symmetry or symmetrical

balance - the parts of an image or object organized so that one side duplicates, or mirrors, the other; also known as formal balance.

syncretism - the merging of two or more originally different inflectional forms; reconciliation or fusion of differing systems of belief, esp. with partial success or a heterogeneous result.

texture - refers to the surface quality or "feel" of an object, such as roughness, smoothness, or softness. Actual texture can be felt while simulated textures are implied by the way the artist renders areas of the picture.

The Great Migration - was the movement of millions of African Americans out of the rural South from 1914 to 1950. Most moved to large industrial cities in the North, such as New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Detroit, Chicago, St. Louis and (in the far west) Los Angeles. They moved as individuals or as small groups. There was no government assistance. They migrated due to a variety of reasons. Although there was

opposition to the movement of African Americans into cities that were predominantly white (for example, the riots in East Saint Louis, Illinois in 1917 and Detroit in 1943), the Great Migration provided unprecedented economic and educational opportunities for African Americans. Adults were earning higher wages, while children were presented with better educational opportunities. Furthermore, because of war needs and the rising populations of African Americans in the industrial centers, in 1943 President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802, which banned racial discrimination in the workplace in all industries involved in the war effort, and paved the way for the American civil rights movement. For the first time in the United States, a significant urban African American population existed and cultural activity flourished, as exemplified by Harlem Renaissance. According to the writer Alain Locke, the United States was seeing the birth of the "new Negro."

triptych - is a work of art (usually a panel painting) which is divided into three sections, or three carved panels which are hinged together. The central panel is the most important one, and is flanked on either side by two lesser but related paintings. The whole is intended to be greater than the sum of the parts. The triptych form arises from early Christian art, and was the standard format for altar paintings from the Middle Ages onwards.

unity - is seen in a painting or drawing when all the parts equal

the whole. The art piece should not appear disjointed or confusing.

value - is used to describe the lightness or darkness of a color. Value is needed to express volume.

warp - the vertical threads which form the base of the weaving; to warp means to string the threads onto the loom.

weaving - is forming cloth by interlacing strands of material such as yarn.

weft - the horizontal threads which are woven across the warp.

Yoruba - is a large ethno-linguistic group or ethnic nation in West Africa. The Yoruba constitute 30% of Nigeria's total population, and number upwards of 40 million individuals throughout the region of West Africa. While a majority of the Yoruba live in the southwest of Nigeria, there are also substantial indigenous Yoruba communities in the Republics of Benin and Togo, as well as diaspora Yoruba communities in Sierra Leone, Brazil, Cuba, Puerto Rico and Trinidad.

