

Art: Topic linked - Benin

Essential Question: What can we learn from the art of Benin?



What I should already know : In KS1 the children have explored mark making and line; worked and experimented with different materials through observational and collaborative pieces. They have used 3D clay to create 2D printed patterns and sculptural forms. In LKS2, they have created carvings in soap and have learnt about the works of inspirational sculptors and have created 3D works of art, working with recycled materials and making collages. UKS2, they have learnt how artists make political statements through their art, e.g. Banksy. In all year groups they have used sketchbooks to record observations and have learnt about how artists develop their ideas using drawings and annotations.

Enquiry Questions:

How did West African art influence European art?

How did the artists of Benin create the famous Benin Bronzes?

Can I use inspiration from the 'Benin Bronzes' to create my own clay relief tile?

How can we interpret the Benin Bronzes with a modern twist?

How were animals represented in the art of Benin?

Key Vocabulary

Benin Bronzes - a collection of intricately-worked sculptures and plaques in bronze, ivory, ceramic and wood that decorated the royal palace of the Kingdom of Benin, which was subsequently incorporated into British-ruled Nigeria.

Casting - to make an object of a particular shape by pouring liquid metal, plastic, or liquid plaster into a mold

Charcoal - a black crumbly drawing material made of carbon.

Clay relief - Relief is a sculptural method in which the sculpted pieces are bonded to a solid background of the same material. The term relief is from the Latin verb relevo, to raise.

Composition - The placement or arrangement of the different elements, of 'things' within a work of art.

Cubism - a style of art which aims to show all of the possible viewpoints of a person or an object all at once. It is called Cubism because the items represented in the artworks look like they are made out of cubes and other geometrical shapes.

Figurative - Modern art which has strong references to the real world, particularly the human figure.

Mold - a hollow form used to give a particular shape to a soft or liquid substance that is poured into it. The material becomes hard and takes the shape of the mold.

Symbolism - using an object or a word to represent an idea.

Art & Design Skills

Pupils should be taught to:

- Develop their techniques, including their control and their use of materials, with creativity, experimentation and an increasing awareness of different kinds of art, craft and design
- Improve their mastery of Art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials [for example, pencil,
- Know about great artists, architects and designers in history.



Romuald Hazoume

Romuald Hazoume was born in 1962, Porto Novo, Benin. He is a sculpture who works with found objects.

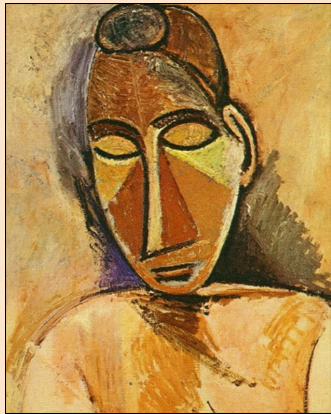
What Influenced Hazoumé to become an artist?

"Today the Europeans have taken away all our masks and still they want more masks. In return they have left us their waste, which we do not manufacture ourselves. So..I recycle the rubbish which they send us everyday, as masks for which they have such a hunger and send it back, so that our old masks may stay with us".

Romuald Hazoumé

What are the main themes and materials used in Hazoumé's work?

African place, history and identity as well as the atlantic slave trade are a continuous theme in Romuald's work and he creates his sculptural pieces using found objects/rubbish.



Nude Bust by Picasso



Mask, Bandudu people, Zaire

Picasso was influenced by African art - can you see the similarities?

Clay relief tile



Links to other areas of the Curriculum - History - Transatlantic slave trade/Benin