

# Unveiling the Hidden Tapestry: Art and Decolonization in Twentieth-Century Nigeria

Art is a profound and evocative medium that has the power to transcend boundaries, challenge societal norms, and shape our understanding of the world. In the context of Nigeria's colonial history, art played a vital role in the struggle for independence and the subsequent process of decolonization.

This extraordinary book, "**Art and Decolonization in Twentieth-Century Nigeria**," explores the intricate relationship between art and decolonization in Nigeria. It meticulously analyzes the works of seminal artists and influential movements that emerged during this transformative period, providing a comprehensive and thought-provoking examination of their creative expressions and political significance.



## Postcolonial Modernism: Art and Decolonization in Twentieth-Century Nigeria by Chika Okeke-Agulu

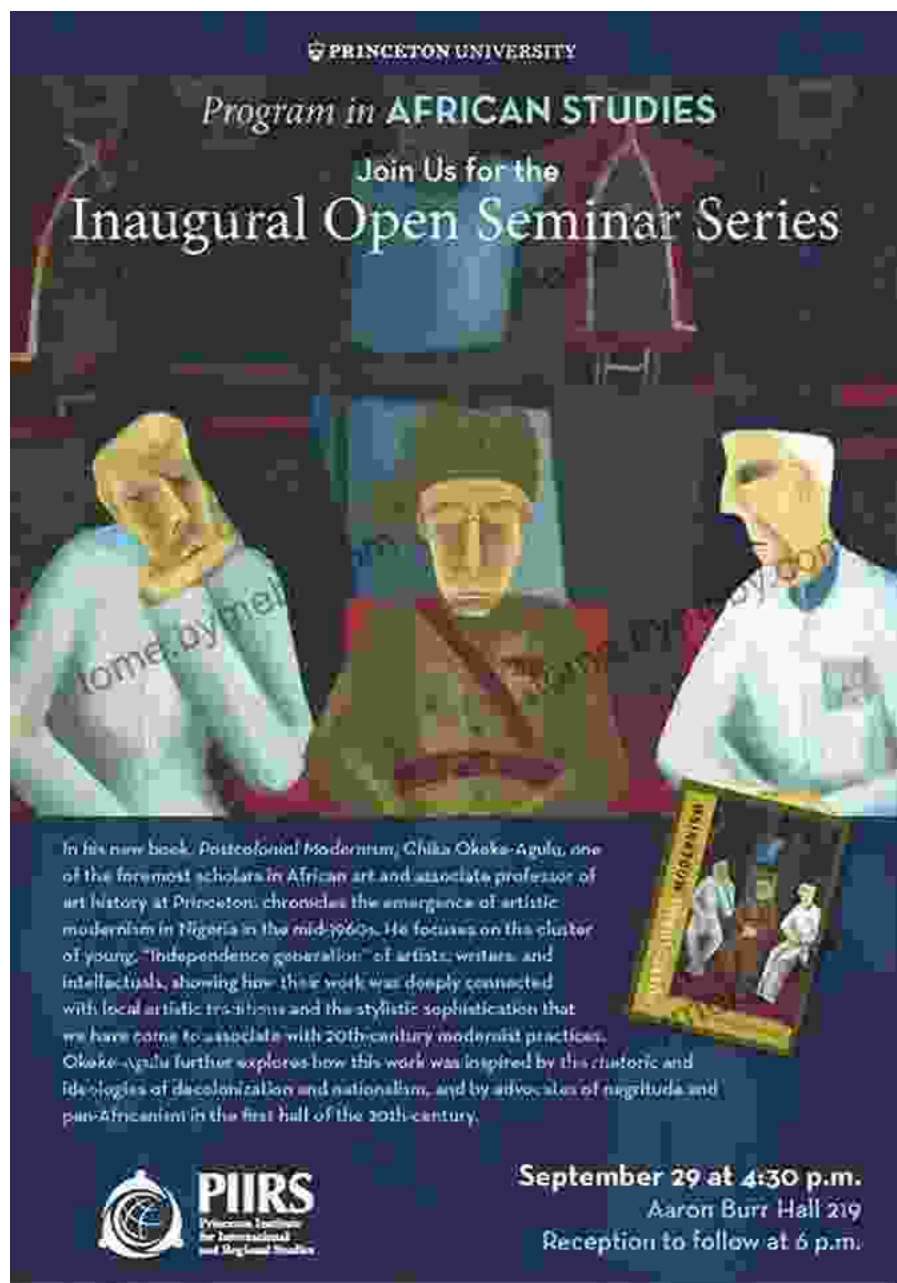
★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 48182 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Print length : 376 pages



## Art as a Catalyst for Social Change

As Nigeria emerged from colonial rule, art became a powerful tool for asserting cultural identity and challenging oppressive structures. Nigerian artists, both renowned and emerging, embraced their traditional heritage while simultaneously experimenting with modern artistic techniques. Their works served as a potent form of resistance, redefining the nation's narrative and inspiring a sense of collective identity.



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In his new book, *Postcolonial Modernism*, Chika Okeke-Agulu, one of the foremost scholars in African art and associate professor of art history at Princeton, chronicles the emergence of artistic modernism in Nigeria in the mid-1960s. He focuses on the cluster of young, "Independence generation" of artists, writers, and intellectuals, showing how their work was deeply connected with local artistic traditions and the stylistic sophistication that we have come to associate with 20th-century modernist practices. Okeke-Agulu further explores how this work was inspired by the rhetoric and ideologies of decolonization and nationalism, and by advocates of *négritude* and pan-Africanism in the first half of the 20th-century.

**September 29 at 4:30 p.m.**  
Aaron Burr Hall 219  
Reception to follow at 6 p.m.

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This book delves into the symbolism and themes prevalent in decolonization art, showcasing how artists confronted issues of colonial oppression, cultural appropriation, and the search for a postcolonial identity. By examining the works of influential artists such as Ben Enwonwu, Uche Okeke, and Yusuf Grillo, the authors provide a profound understanding of the transformative role art played in shaping the destiny of Nigeria.

### **A Vibrant Tapestry of Artistic Expressions**

The book presents a comprehensive overview of the diverse artistic movements that emerged in Nigeria during the twentieth century. From the vibrant colors and bold forms of the Osogbo School to the introspective and spiritual works of the Nsukka Group, each movement contributed a unique perspective to the evolving discourse on decolonization.



The authors meticulously trace the evolution of these movements, exploring their influences, techniques, and the socio-political contexts that shaped their artistic expressions. By highlighting the contributions of individual artists and collectives, the book paints a vivid picture of the vibrant and multifaceted artistic landscape that emerged in postcolonial Nigeria.


### **Challenging Eurocentric Narratives**

One of the most significant contributions of this book is its challenge to Eurocentric narratives that have long dominated the field of art history. By centering the experiences and perspectives of Nigerian artists, the authors offer a fresh and nuanced understanding of modern and contemporary African art.


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The book argues that Nigerian art is not merely derivative of Western influences but rather a dynamic and independent force that has shaped global artistic discourse. It critiques the colonial gaze that has often marginalized and stereotyped African art, advocating for a more inclusive and equitable representation of artistic traditions from around the world.

### Exploring the Legacy and Impact

**"Art and Decolonization in Twentieth-Century Nigeria"**不仅仅是一本艺术史著作，更是一部探索文化、身份和权力关系的深刻而发人深省的著作。它追溯了 decolonization 艺术的持久影响，展示了它如何继续塑造着当代社会和政治话语。

通过考察艺术在后殖民国家构建中的作用，这本书为理解全球社会中文化多样性和社会正义的持续斗争提供了宝贵的见解。它邀请读者重新思考艺术和社会变革之间的联系，并认识到艺术在塑造一个更加公正和包容的世界中的力量。

### **: A Must-Read for Art Enthusiasts and Historians**

, **"Art and Decolonization in Twentieth-Century Nigeria"** is an essential text for anyone interested in the intersection of art, history, and decolonial studies. Its rigorous scholarship, insightful analysis, and stunning visuals make it an invaluable resource for students, academics, art historians, and anyone seeking a deeper understanding of Nigeria's rich cultural heritage.

This book is a testament to the transformative power of art and its ability to inspire, challenge, and empower. It opens a new chapter in the discourse on decolonization, highlighting the vital contributions of Nigerian artists to the global artistic landscape. With its captivating narrative and thought-provoking insights, **"Art and Decolonization in Twentieth-Century Nigeria"** is an indispensable read for anyone seeking to unravel the complex and fascinating tapestry of Nigerian art and its enduring impact on the world stage.

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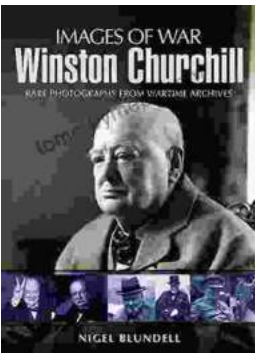


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