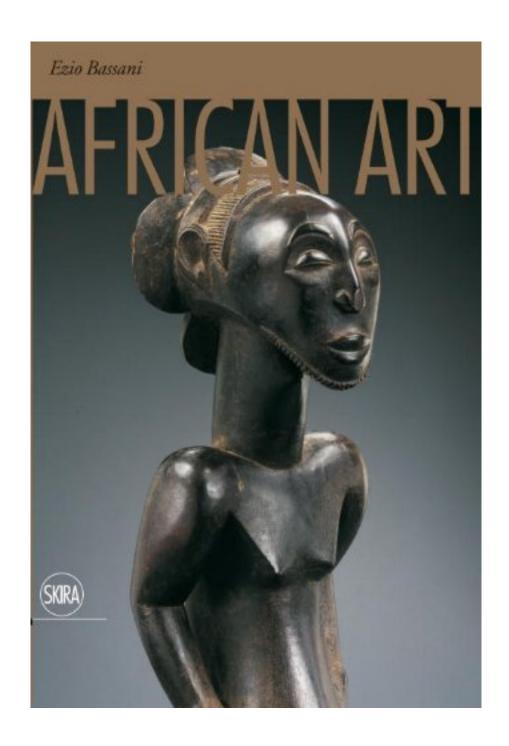


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Ezio Bassani is an art historian and has written extensively on African art.

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An illustrated study of traditional and figurative art of Africa that reflects the continent's rich artistic and cultural heritage. African Art explores the continent's marvelous artistic achievements which share its roots with humanities origins. Sculpture has historically been the chief means of artistic expression. The human figure, whether real or symbolic, is almost the exclusive subject of African art. This vast world of African sculpture is the result of an evolutionary process, based on humanity's rich history and diversity deriving from migrations, wars, and alliances. During the last century, the African continent has experienced radical transformations in the fields of social and political organizations, the economy and religions. Inevitably, new artistic forms are being established simultaneously with the globalization process and the creation of works for the art market, which retain less and less ties with those of the past. African Art is an exhaustive presentation of the traditional figurative arts of Africa and concisely explains their distinguishing historical, formal, symbolic and functional characteristics. A truly valuable source of inspiration for students, collectors, and travelers alike, this book is complete with a glossary and bibliography.

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About the Author

Ezio Bassani is an art historian and has written extensively on African art.

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6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent, Well-Researched Book On African Art

By James I. Cole

Hardcover, plain boards with illustrated DJ, 12.5" x 8.5", 303 pages, 262 African art objects in color, Bibliography. 1 general map of Africa showing locations of ethnic groups and cultures. By Ezio Bassani. Published by Skira, 2012.

Probably the best description of this book's ambition comes from the introduction: "The aims of this book are to present traditional African sculpture at the highest possible level and provide a precise and straightfoward exposition of the author's (Ezio Bassani's) knowledge of the different historical, formal, symbolic, and functional characteristics......The adjective "traditional" defines works created explictly not for the art market, but in response to the religious, political, and also aesthetic needs of African societies of the past." I think that in this context, the book does very well.

The book features a really nice section on "Commissioned Art: Afro-Portugese Ivories", and many quality African tribal art figures, masks, vessels, stools, plaques, reliquary figures, equestrian figures, bowls, headdresses, power figures, doors, Benin bronzes, terracota busts and a couple of sublime Sakalawa burial monuments from Madagascar.

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