

Unit 8: Contemporary African Artists

In this unit, we will learn about the spread of African art forms and contemporary African artists. These are starting points for further investigation. In discussing and analyzing contemporary African art, critics have focused on the extent to which expressions of ethnic and cultural heritage may be intended by particular artists. Pay attention to how the modern works discussed are described and contextualized through references to past art as well as to modern art of the West. Also note how the artists themselves (when applicable) and commentators describe the meanings and inspirations in these works.

Unit 8 Time Advisory

This unit should take you approximately you 15 hours to complete.

Subunit 8.1: 5 hours

Subunit 8.2: 10 hours

Unit 8 Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- discuss and analyze how many modern art forms of the West were influenced by close viewings of traditional African art;
- discuss aspects of African culture that can be seen in various Caribbean works of art and art forms;
- explain the basics of Haitian voodoo spirituality;
- explain how many modern African artists have integrated past traditions with forms of Western art; and
- discuss unfamiliar art in terms of form and potential symbolism from observation.