

# The Influence of the Bantoue Philosophy on African American Contemporary Mural Painting

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## **Abstract:**

At the beginning of the twentieth century, modern trends appeared in plastic art; As a result of the discovery of African art, which quickly dominated the styles of European artists due to its originality and connection with human traditions and wisdom, it was a source of inspiration for most modern art schools such as symbolism, brutality, and cubism. Picasso and Braque were influenced in some of their works by Negro art. In formations and treatments, and in that period also American mural painting began to exist at the hands of African-American artists who have African origins as a result of the immigration of their ancestors to America in the seventeenth century; Consequently, these artists were influenced by some ancient philosophies that contributed to the creation of many rules that the artist follows in the process of artistic creativity and made his works linked to place and creed, and among these philosophies (African Bantu philosophy); Which implies that the ancient African artists distinguish between what the senses perceive and what is.

The essence of the self and its inner essence - for it has a mystical contemplative concept - by which they distinguish between the body, shadow and soul on the one hand, and the person's self or essence on the other hand. From this thought, the African-American artist set out to express his identity, using the symbol in many of his murals to express himself, his origin, and his pride in the artistic past of his ancestors. (And the artist (John Biggers), who made many trips to Africa to learn more about African life, art and the ancient Bantu philosophy - that philosophy - which was the fruit of human talents since ancient times .

## **Key words :**

( The Bantoue Philosophy – African Existentialism – mural painting- African American – Contemporary ).