

Characteristics of African art as a source of creativity in designing glass art products

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Abstract

African art is a distinct art and has its own characters like no other arts, and it had influenced the pioneers of modern art such as Picasso and Braque. African arts have combined a set of intertwined ideological, material and symbolic values using various materials closely related to pagan rituals.

African arts bear all the qualities and ingredients of a good artistic work of expressive, organizational, linear, color and symbolic values, and among the characteristics of these arts are exaggeration, deletion, flatness, abstraction and the use of symbols in abundance - as each tribe has a special totem - and repetition had a clear impact as the African artist enjoys repeating unity, creating aesthetic formations that enrich surfaces. One of the characteristics of these arts is direct expression without making an idea or prior planning, which gives vitality to the artwork, and all these values were performed simply, but they reflected the units and decorative elements in the African environment, where the belief of placing some animals within the formation, such as the crocodile, for example of a clear effect, as well as the manifestations of the universe through the sun, moon and stars. These characteristics included within the art, making it a sweet source that can be used in forming or reshaping glass.

African art lacks the art of glass in terms of painting, coloring and shaping it, but in the current era, some artists have implemented models of African art on raw glass, whether by painting on it, by melting it, or by carving on glass and other well-known glass techniques.

Glass with its high potential as a raw material that can be formed in multiple ways and production methods, can play a positive role by inspiring a group of designs for artistic and technical glass products loaded with the African cultural heritage for one piece of high value, and this helps to open markets in this continent through artistic characteristics which these peoples accept.

Keywords:

African Art - Photography - Sculpture - Characteristics of African Art

• Introduction :

African art, in general, came as a result of local human talents since ancient times, and its goal was to meet the high and impressive requirements of the African society. Among these advantages and characteristics are its antiquity, continuity, adherence to and preservation of traditions, meeting the needs of the community, making use of local materials, and appreciating the African community for its creators, paying attention to various masks and statues associated with African thought and environmental conditions, overlapping fine arts and applied arts, and achieving sound anatomical proportions without fabrication, but by instinct. Through the pure, undisturbed sense, the use of simple tools, and the African woman's contribution to it, which made this art a true mirror of its society, and in response to its material and spiritual needs that have become so blurred and overlapped in it, that they cannot be separated from each other, and this is a characteristic that applies to Eastern arts, crafts and handicrafts in general, as it is not found in pure art, but art is always present in the service of human daily life.

Research problem:

African art is considered one of the arts replete with many decorations and artistic symbols, and due to the scarcity of researches and studies linking the field of glass with African arts, so this research is to create artistic glass products inspired by African arts and decorations.

Search objective:

- Benefiting from the characteristics of African art and its symbolic connotations in the implementation of glass artworks.

Research importance:

- Emphasizing the identity of African arts as one of the tributaries of cultural integration.
Opening new markets for the African continent through contemporary artistic glass designs.

Search limits:

Spatial boundaries: determined in southern and central Africa.

Research Methodology:

The research follows the descriptive method and the experimental method.



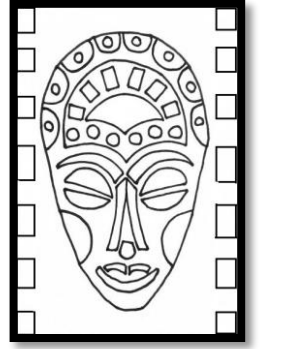


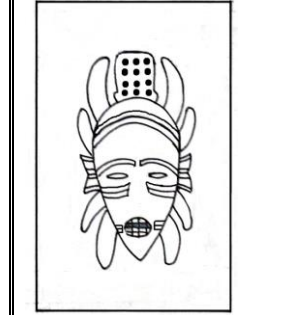

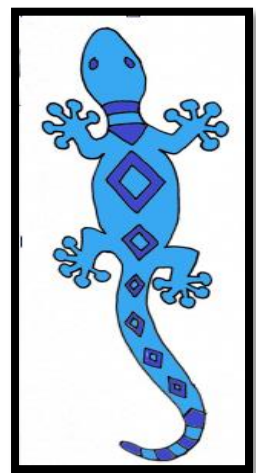
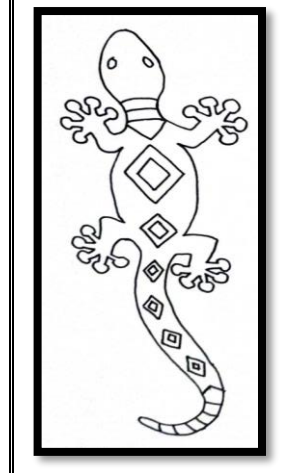
Research hypotheses:

- Benefiting from studying the characteristics of African art in designing contemporary artistic glass products employed in various fields.

The most important characteristics of African art:

What distinguishes this African art and attracts many artists to it is its simplicity, and it meets human daily needs, whether in the process of hunting or eating and drinking or even spiritual rituals that are used in the work of magic and treatment of diseases. It is characterized by an attractive aesthetic touch because it is made of natural materials and raw materials such as wood, stones, beads, dried seeds, ivory, animal bones, feathers and leather. The charming African arts and nature have played an important and clear role in the development of global art.

Practical applications:

Execution	Application	Color idea	Design idea	م
<p>The design was carried out using Fusing Glass technique, using transparent green glass with a thickness of 3 mm, and it was melted at a temperature of 850°C.</p>				<p>1</p>
<p>Description of the application form : The idea is inspired by the African mask, which represents the cultural identity of the African continent. The African mask represents simplicity and originality in African arts, which have the specificity of this art.</p>				
<p>The design was carried out with Thermal Color Painting technique using 4 mm transparent glass at a temperature of 550°C.</p>				<p>2</p>
<p>Description of the application: The design idea of the application is inspired by the African mask, where the African masks aim to awaken some of the emotions required in society such as courage, vanity or others, and also use the human form to support religious values and give the human personality the utmost importance.</p>				
<p>The design was carried out using the technique of drawing on glass with thermal oxides using cobalt oxide and copper oxide, adding borax with the addition of an aqueous medium and a little of Arabic gum at a temperature of 850 °C.</p>				<p>3</p>
<p>Description of the application for :The design idea of the application is inspired by the shape of the leprosy, which indicates the ability to adapt to circumstances, as the artist took care of the basic components and features of this element, with the addition of some geometric decorations that give a sense of balance.</p>				

- Results:

- 1- Clarify the characteristics of the different artistic styles of African art.
- 2- The plastic vocabulary and the symbolic connotations of African art were utilized in making innovative designs and implementing them using different glass techniques, which helped to stimulate the creative ability of the designer.
- 3- Preserving the arts of heritage and making use of them in the field of manufacturing glass products.
- 4- An analytical study was made for some glass products inspired by African arts, explaining the most important characteristics of African art and the most important components of it, with an explanation of the design philosophy and technology used in it.

- Recommendations:

- 1- The researcher recommends the necessity of opening new horizons for integration between scientific disciplines in the field of applied arts to serve the community.
- 2- The researcher recommends the necessity of holding modern art exhibitions on a regular basis, especially exhibitions of artists affected by African art, and their works bear an African character.
- 3- The necessity of enriching art libraries with many Arab and foreign references that deal with aspects of African art.

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