

The artistic and plastic possibilities of wooden doors for the African Dogon tribes as an entrance to enrich contemporary wood work

Assist. Prof. Dr. Hamed Abbas Mahmoud

Assistant Professor of Woodworking - Faculty of Specific Education - Menoufia University

yahiahaki@yahoo.com

Abstract

Heritage scholars face some difficulties in creating modern plastic formulations. The traditional decorations on the wooden doors of the Dogon tribes are one of the sources of vision, as the heritage of these tribes is full of plastic capabilities through which the artist can draw inspiration from those plastic symbols in his decorative designs. Among these plastic capabilities are door decorations. Wood that is unique in terms of form and content all over the world

The researcher turned to studying the traditional wooden doors of the Dogon tribes in order to implement designs for wooden murals based on the symbols and connotations deduced from the decorations of those doors. This unit determines the artistic and aesthetic value of the artwork

Therefore, the research problem can be identified in the following question :

What is the possibility of benefiting from the design formulas of the decorative elements in the wooden doors of the Dogon tribes as an entrance to the design Contemporary wooden murals

Keywords

Technical capabilities, Wooden doors, the Dogon tribes

Background research

The Dogon (they are an ethnic group that lives in the central plateau region of the country of Mali, in West Africa, south of the Niger Bend, in the Mopti region. The Dogon people built their villages near the famous Bandiagara Escarpment, which is a sandstone cliff that reaches a height of 500 meters and extends for approximately 150 kilometers, and thus they were called the People of the Hill and Cliff Mountain. To the southeast of the escarpment, there are the sandy plains of Séno-Gondo, and to the northwest of the escarpment are the Bandiagara highlands. The current population ranges between (450,000: 800,000) people. At least) (21, p. 4) Picture (1) shows the geographical location of the Dogon tribes

The majority of the Dogon practice a pagan religion, called “the spirit of the ancestors, Nomu.” A minority of the Dogon also practice Islam, along with a Christian minority. The Dogon tribes are famous for their mythology, mask dances, wood carving and architecture, and the Dogon family is famous for its religious traditions.

(The Dogon people follow their ancestors through a patriarchal system. Each Dogon community, is an extended family, headed by an elder male. This chief is the eldest surviving son of the ancestor of the local branch of the family) (24, p. 31)

The people of the tribe build their houses of mud brick between the rugged slopes in an area that is relatively difficult to access. The Dogon also practice agriculture, as they grow “millet, sorghum, rice, onions, tobacco and peanuts, in addition to some other vegetables.”

Grain warehouses play an important role in the life of the Dogon tribe, as we notice that the number of grain warehouses characterized by pointed roofs made of straw exceeds the number of dwelling houses with flat roofs when looking at the Dogon village. High grain warehouses protect crops from moisture, insects and theft, and they also serve as a symbol of wealth. The status belongs to the owner, picture (2), and there are different types of grain stores, including the square “guyo ya” for women to store women’s personal belongings, and the high cylindrical warehouses “the guy ana” for zukur, which are characterized by requiring a ladder to reach them, and are used to store millet and sorghum. In addition to a third type of storeroom for elderly men, which is somewhat rare (18, p. 24) guyo togu.

The daily life of the Dogon family is steeped in legends from the depths of time. (For the Dogon tribes, there is a creator god, Amma Amma, who threw dirt balls into space, where these balls turned into stars. Then Amma designed two pieces of pottery. The first, which was surrounded by a swirl of red copper, was the sun. The second, in white copper, is the moon. (24, p. 51)

Search recommendations:

- Conducting more studies that deal with the arts of different African cultures because of the artistic and cultural inventory they contain that may enrich the field of art education in general and woodworking in particular.
- Interest in African arts in general and decorative arts on woodwork in particular for their aesthetic value
- Inviting woodworking artists to pay attention to researching and drawing inspiration from African material heritage.
- Searching for new entrances and starting points that enrich the field of woodworking.

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