

Curriculum Vitae
Monica Blackmun Visonà, Ph.D.
m.b.visona@uky.edu

Abbreviated Version, March 2022

Education

Ph.D., Art History, University of California, Santa Barbara
Dissertation: *Art and Authority among the Akye of the Ivory Coast*

M.A., Art History, University of California, Santa Barbara
Thesis: *The Asen of Dahomey: Iron Altars from the People's Republic of Benin*

A.B., Art History
Stanford University

University of Kentucky, 2005-present
Professor of Art History and Visual Studies,
Affiliate Faculty, African American and Africana Studies

Metropolitan State College of Denver, 1989-2005
Associate Professor, Department of Art

Publications and Research Projects in Preparation

[2023] *A History of Art in Africa*. Monica Blackmun Visonà et. al. Ann Arbor: Maize Books, Michigan Publications.
Online, open access publication, revising previous editions to incorporate 20 years of scholarship in the field of Africa's art history.

[2021] "Egyptology and Africanist Art History" essay commissioned for *Oxford Bibliographies of Art Online*, accepted, being revised.

Arts Across an African Border; Comparative Histories of Akan Arts in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire

Women in 20th Century African Modernism

Intercontinental Connections; Art Linking Kentucky to African Nations [exhibition]

Published Books

2013 *A Companion to Modern African Art*. Co-edited with Gitti Salami. Hoboken, N.J.: Wiley-Blackwell. Author of two chapters, Translator for two chapters.

- 2010 *Constructing African Art Histories for the Lagoon Region of Côte d'Ivoire*.
Burlington, VT: Ashgate [hardcover].
(2016) London: Routledge/Taylor and Francis [re-issued in paperback and hardcover].
- 2008 *A History of Art in Africa*. Monica Blackmun Visonà, Robin Poynor, Herbert M. Cole,
Michael Harris. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall/Pearson. Second edition.
(2000) New York: Abrams. First edition.

Book Chapters and Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2022 *The History of Art: A Global View*. New York: Thames & Hudson. Five chapters (with additional contributions to team-authored sections and to a chapter on global issues in contemporary art)
- 2021 "Women's Artistic Production in Africa: A History," *Palgrave Handbook on African Women's Studies*, Olajumoke Yacob-Haliso and Toyin Falola eds., New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 1845-1870.
- 2018 "Purloined Provenances: Reflections on Authority and Authenticity in African Art" *Critical Interventions. Journal of African Art History and Visual Culture* 12 (1): 8-21
- 2017 "Gifts from our Elders: African Arts and Visionary Art History", *African Arts* 50 (3): 1-7.
- 2015 "Guerrieri con il cappello a cilindro: arte e tecnologia sulle Coste dell'Africa Occidentale" [Warriors in a Top Hat: Art and Technology on West African Coasts] in *African Power Dressing: il corpo in gioco*, Giovanna Parodi da Passano, ed. Genova: Genova University Press, 111-19.
- 2014 "Artistic Creativity and Anonymity in the Lagoon Region of the Ivory Coast" "Modern and Contemporary Artists from the Ivory Coast" in *African Masters. Art from the Ivory Coast* Eberhard Fischer and Lorenz Homberger, eds. Zürich: Scheidegger & Spiess, 61-80, 217-232, in German and in an English translation from the German edition; French edition published by Skira.
- 2012 "Agent Provocateur: The African Provenance and American Life of a Statue from Côte d'Ivoire", *Art Bulletin*, XCIV (1): 99-129
- 2009 "Notes and Queries on Egypt's Participation in the First World Festival of Negro Arts." *Africa e Mediterraneo* 68: 71-9.
- 2006 "Redefining Twentieth Century African Art: The View from the Lagoons of Côte d'Ivoire." *African Arts* 38 (4): 54-61, 93-4.

- 1990 "Portraiture among the Lagoon Peoples of Côte d'Ivoire." *African Arts* 23 (4): 54-61, 94-5.
- 1987 "The Limitations of Labels." *African Arts* 20 (4): 38.
- 1987 "Carved Posts of the Lagoon Region, Ivory Coast." *African Arts* 20 (2): 60-64, 83.
- 1987 "Divinely Inspired Artists from the Lagoon Cultures of the Ivory Coast." In *The Artist and the Workshop in Traditional Africa*, ed. Christopher Roy. *Iowa Studies in African Art* 3. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 67-80.
- 1987 "The Akan Origins of the Lagoon Peoples of the Ivory Coast as an Art Historical Problem." In *The Golden Stool: Studies of the Asante Center and Periphery*, ed. Enid Schildkrout. *Papers of the American Museum of Natural History* 65. New York: American Museum of Natural History, 298-309.
- 1986 "Artistes et guérisseurs chez les populations lagunaires." *Godó-Godó* (Revue semestrielle de l'I.H.A.A., Université Nationale de la Côte d'Ivoire, Abidjan) 9: 57-72.

Other Publications (Selected)

- 2020 "Drawn to Picasso and Entangled in Primitivism", book review for *Picasso's Demoiselles: The Untold Origins of a Modern Masterpiece* by Suzanne Preston Blier, *Art Journal* 79 (3): 95-7
- 2016 Book review for "Cosmopolitan Art Worlds" of *Postcolonial Modernism. Art and Decolonization in Twentieth-Century Nigeria* by Chika Okeke-Agulu, *Art Bulletin* XCVIII (2): 272-4.
- 2015 "Usage authentique pour d'inauthentiques objets d'art" [Authentic Uses for Inauthentic Art Objects] in *Afrique. La Croisée des Mondes*. Sain-Maur-des-Fossés: Sépia, 144-156, translated into French by Laurine Caute.
- 2015 Entries 28-30 in *African Art in the Barnes Foundation. The Triumph of L'Art nègre and the Harlem Renaissance*, by Christa Clarke. New York: Skira Rizzoli, 166-75.
- 2014 Book review of *An Anthropology of Images: Picture, Medium, Body* by Hans Belting, trans. Thomas Dunlap, *caa reviews* (Sept. 10, online).
<http://www.caareviews.org/reviews/2222#.WygXDIVKjFg>
- 2013 "On Discursive Strategies", *African Arts* 46 (3): 5-6.
- 2013 "Art from Côte d'Ivoire/Art de Côte d'Ivoire", *Tribal Art*, Special Issue/Hors Série #3,

22-25 (serving as catalog for "African Art, New York and the Avant-Garde", an exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art).

2009 "Alangoua." In *Man Ray, African Art and the Modernist Lens*, ed. Wendy Grossman. Washington, D.C.: Philips Collection, 155-6 (#16).

1993 "The Lagoon Peoples." In *Art de la Côte d'Ivoire*. Munich: Prestel Verlag, vol.1: 368-83; vol. 2: 169-84.

Invited Lectures and Papers Delivered at International Conferences (Selected)

"A Virtual Visit to Africa in the Golden Age: The Caravans of Gold Exhibition", webinar for the African Arts Council and San Diego Mesa College, San Diego (4/2021)

"How Africa Makes Art History Global: Decolonizing the Canon", annual meeting of SECAC (online, 12/20)

"Creating an Art Historical Canon for African Objects", Annual meeting of the African Studies Association, Boston (11/2019)

"Connecting Two Akan Scholars to French and British Patronage", Biennial conference, European Council on African Studies, University of Edinburgh, Scotland (6/2019)

"Provenance: Hidden African Histories of Artworks", Biennial conference, European Council on African Studies, Université de Paris, La Sorbonne, Paris (7/2015)

"Art Africain Traduit/Trahit", Musée d'Angoulême, Angoulême, France (7/2015)

"The Philadelphia Story; African Art arrives in the United States", African and Pacific Arts Council, San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego (3/2015)

"Artists in Revolutionary Cairo, 2011-2013", 16th Triennial Symposium on African Art, Brooklyn (4/2014)

"Divinely Inspired Artists? Reading Vasari in Côte d'Ivoire", Ethnologisches Seminar, Centre for African Studies, University of Basel, (10/2012)

"Ghanaian Modernism in a Post-Modern Art World" Conference on *Revisiting Modernization*. Institute of African Studies, Legon and University of California Working Group on African Studies (8/2009).

Research Affiliations

Senior Fellow, Smithsonian Institution (National Museum of African Art), 2004-5
Visiting Scholar, Wesleyan University, 1985-6
Zora Neale Hurston Fellow, Institute for Advanced Study and Research in the African
Humanities, Northwestern University, 1993
Visiting Researcher, Institut d'Histoire, d'Art et d'Archéologie, Université Nationale de la
Côte d'Ivoire, 1983-4; 1981

Fieldwork and Research Trips to Africa

Malawi, 2016
Morocco, 2015
Algeria, 2014
Egypt, 2008, 2013
Ghana, 2007, 2009
Kenya, 1998
Senegal, 1984
Côte d'Ivoire, 1981, 1983-4, 1989