

# The Shattered Gourd: Yoruba Forms in Twentieth Century American Art

Moyo Okediji (Author)

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*The Shattered Gourd* uses the lens of visual art to examine connections between the United States and the Yoruba region of western Nigeria.

In Yoruba legend, the sacred Calabash of Being contained the Water of Life; when the gourd was shattered, its fragments were scattered over the ground, death invaded the world, and imperfection crept into human affairs. In more modern times, the shattered gourd has symbolized the warfare and enslavement that culminated in the black diasporas.

The "re-membering" of the gourd is represented by the survival of people of African origin all over the Americas, and, in this volume, by their rediscovery of African art forms on the diaspora soil of the United States. Twentieth-century African American artists employing Yoruba images in their work have gone from protest art to the exploration and celebration of the self and the community. But because the social, economic, and political context of African art forms differs markedly from that of American culture, critical contradictions between form and meaning often appear in African American works that use African forms.

In this book - the first to treat Yoruba forms while transcending the conventional emphasis on them as folk art, focusing instead on the high art tradition - Moyo Okediji uses nearly four dozen works to illustrate a broad thematic treatment combined with a detailed approach to individual African and African American artists. Incorporating works by such artists as Meta Warrick Fuller, Hale Woodruff, Aaron Douglas, Elizabeth Catlett, Ademola Olugbefola, Paul Keene, Jeff Donaldson, Howardena Pindell, Muneer Bahauddeen, Michelle Turner, Michael Harris, Winnie Owens-Hart, and John Biggers, the author invites the reader to envision what he describes as "the immense possibilities of the future, as the twenty-first century embraces the twentieth in a primal dance of the diasporas," a future that heralds the advent of the global as a distinct movement in art, beyond postmodernism.

Okediji, Moyo. 2003. *The Shattered Gourd: Yoruba Forms in 20th Century American Art*. Seattle: University of Washington Press. ISBN 0295981504. Okediji, Moyo. 2002. *African Renaissance: Old Forms, New Images in Yoruba Art*. Boulder: University Press of Colorado. 2003. *The Shattered Gourd: Yoruba Forms in 20th Century American Art*. Seattle: University of Washington Press. ISBN 0295981504. Okediji, Moyo. 2002. *African Renaissance: Old Forms, New Images in Yoruba Art*. Boulder: University Press of Colorado. ISBN 0870816810. The contents of this page are sourced from Wikipedia article . The contents are available under the CC BY-SA 4.0 license. Add some information about Moyo Okediji. Twentieth-century American art was profoundly paradoxical in its quest for and avoidance of integration. Still, this organizing principle allows for a broad critique of the ways in which modern American art became a medium for radical aesthetic, personal, and social experimentation from the late nineteenth century through the 1990s. It also allows for an examination of the many styles, regions, theories, and myths that make up twentieth-century American art. *The Shattered Gourd Yoruba Forms in Twentieth-Century American Art*. Moyo Okediji. Release Date: 5/1/03 ISBN: 0295981504 256 Pages. About the Book. *The Shattered Gourd* uses the lens of visual art to examine connections between the United States and the Yoruba region of western Nigeria. In Yoruba legend, the sacred Calabash of Being contained the Water of Life; when the gourd was shattered, its fragments were scattered over the ground, death invaded the world, and imperfection crept into human affairs. In more modern times, the shattered gourd has symbolized the warfare and enslavement that culminated in the black diasporas. American Decorative Arts American Paintings and Sculpture Ancient Near Eastern Art Antonio Ratti Textile Center Arms and Armor Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas Asian Art Drawings and Prints Education Egyptian Art European Paintings European Sculpture and Decorative Arts Greek and Roman Art Islamic Art Medieval Art and The Cloisters Modern and Contemporary Art Musical Instruments Objects Conservation Paintings Conservation Paper Conservation. Twentieth-Century Art: Selections from the Collection of The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Vol. 2, Painting, 1945–1985. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1986.