

An Appreciation of the State Of Visual Arts in Nigeria (1900-1970)

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ABSTRACT This study chronicles the evolution and state of visual arts training in Nigeria. Sequel to the seemingly incomprehensible concept and doubt as to the existence of Nigerian art, the writer attempts to demystify the erroneous impression to state the character of Nigerian art in the global art scene - an art with a culture-bound philosophy. Through review of relevant literature, the study has created a benchmark through the following periodization depicting the postulated chronological trend in Nigerian visual arts - Phase I: (1900--1938) - Period of Sowing the Seed of Formal Art Training in Nigeria and Phase II:(1939 - 1970) - The search for Identity/Promotions of Nigerian Art. These creative and conceptual landmarks are attempts to provide ideological handles for the historical narrative of the state of Nigerian visual arts. Within this period, Nigeria witnessed great creative awareness in the global art scene, which shows that Nigerian art has indeed come of age.