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Views on the Origins, Structure and Hierarchy of Some Niger Delta Mud Sculpture Styles of Southern Nigeria

Ese Odokuma

*Department of Fine / Applied Arts, Faculty of Arts, Delta State University,
Abraka, P.M.B 1 Nigeria*

Telephone: + 234 – 8026 340780, + 234 – 8060 385695, E-mail: eseodokuma2@yahoo.com

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ABSTRACT Mud sculptures are common artistic idioms erected and constructed in some Niger Delta communities of southern Nigeria. Various sizes and structures ranging from naturalistic to abstracted types exist. Consequently, the need to determine the initial ancestry location became necessary, particularly as regards the concentration of this art form as well as its' characteristic spread in the region. Evidence of hierarchical traits and certain formal similarities initially point at Benin but further investigations show more western Igbo influences than those of Benin. That the origins of the medium and concept, particularly those representing *Olokun*, most likely stemmed from the western Igbo area and later spread to other neighbouring areas through the river Ethiopia, is probable.