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VOCABULARY & GLOSSARY [INDEX]

adinkra Cloth = is a ink **relief print** design produced by pieces of carved calabash gourds dipped in ink then stamp on the cloth. Akan speaking people produce this type of cloth.

adire eleko = a type of **stencil** and **resist** printing done on large pieces of cotton cloth by the Yoruba people. A cut out design is done on a large zinc plate. The cutout becomes the design which clear or white starch is placed. The part of the fabric not receiving starch will be exposed to liquid die.

adze = a woodworking tool similar to an ax, with a blade set an acute or right angle to the handle, used in blocking out the major shapes and forms of a sculpture. This tool looks like a small single handed hoe.

ancestor image and/or pageant = the deceased person depicted in an art form and used for spiritual purposes.

arid = a place with low rainfall in which the annual rainfall is less than 25 cm/10 in.

artists = a creative explore and inventor. They like to continually change and improve on previous creativity.

barren = bare of vegetation, having no trees or other growing plants.

bayou = is a slow moving body of water, over grown with reeds, leading from a river or lake.

blacksmith = a person who fashions iron or steel into tools or art.

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bokolanfini = is a hand drawn mud cloth design. The Bamana people of Mali do this kind of work.

calabash = comes from a tropical evergreen tree that produces large ball-shaped fruit **gourds**. The outside is sometimes carved and used as a vessel for carrying liquid or broken into pieces to carve ink stamps.

canopy = (botany definition) the uppermost layer of vegetation in a forest, consisting of tops of trees forming a kind of **ceiling**.

ceil (seal) = to cover or block off.

ceiling = the overhead surface.

cera perduta = Latin and Italian for an English art term “lost wax casting”, generally used in reference to metal casting.

cire perdue = a French word for an English art term “lost wax casting”, generally used in reference to metal casting. The French word is the most commonly used term for this process in which the sculpture is made of wax, then placed in a sand and clay mold and melted away. The empty mold is then filled with molten metal to replace the once wax image that used to be inside the mold.

commemorative = to honor the memory of someone or something in a ceremony.

coopersmith = is someone who makes wooden, staved vessels, bound together with hoops and possessing flat ends or heads like a barrel, bucket, wheelbarrow, tubs, butter churns etc. The person making metal hoops was a **hoopersmith**. Eventually coopersmiths performed both tasks.

crucible = a **ceramic** or metal container in which metals or other substances may be melted and mixed. Crucibles function as separate vessels. You can mix metals in them then pour on different surface, containers, or **molds**. The disadvantages of melting and pouring from a crucible it is very difficult to get your molten metal and receiving receptacle both the same temperature. Usually the receiving receptacle is cooler than the metal often causing metal **flashing** to occur. The advantages of this method of melting and pouring

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molten metal is that you can use a crucible over and over again for almost a lifetime.

culture = is a primate product that is learned. Humans produce **ideas** and create **art** which are **manifestations** of human culture.

desert = a hot or cold place which receive little or no **precipitation** each year. Some deserts are filled with sand or **barren** earth and some deserts are covered with ice.

drayman = term use for a driver of a **dray**, (a low flat-bed wagon without sides) pulled by horses or mules. Drays were used for transport of all kinds of goods. Now the term is really only used for brewery deliverymen and piano movers. Trucks replaced the drays.

dry-rainforest = an area that contains most of the characteristics of a **rainforest**, but only receives rain for six months out of the year and is dry with little or no rain fall for the remaining six months of the year.

ecosystem = a community of organisms and their neighborhood or environment that they inhabit and depend on for mutual survival.

elude = is to evade or escape detection by skillful means.

elusive realism = a perception of realism and reality that is deceptive.

embossing = decorating or sculpting something by raising the surface.

environment = all the external factors influencing the life and activities of people, plants, animals and **microorganisms**.

family = a group with something in common, its members are related in origin, characteristics, and/or occupation, such as the family of mankind or **Homo genus**. When used in reference to humans it means biologically adopted and /or mirrored relationships.

furnace = an enclosure used for producing great heat; in industry a furnace is often associated with the smelting of metal.

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genus = (biological definition) a category in the taxonomic classification of related organisms, comprising one or more **species**, Similar **genera** are grouped into **families**.

habitat = (ecology definition) a home **environment**, the natural conditions and environment in which a plant or animal lives, such as a forest, desert, or wetlands environment. Human culture and innate or instinctive habitat capacities of other organisms create habitat environments.

Homo genus = the **family** of man like creatures that eat mainly vegetation, have an advanced **prehensile** thumb and small incisor teeth and a **cultural occupation** of making tools.

Homo sapiens = Latin for "wise man" or "knowing man", a **species** of Homo genus. The two basic things that distinguish Homo sapiens from all other Homo genus are an enlarged frontal lobe portion of the brain and an **occupation** of producing art.

hourglass casting = procedure is used for casting low temperature metals such as copper, tin, brass and lead. A clay and charcoal core approximating the object to be cast is modeled, then a thin wax covering is melted over the sculpture core. Decorations and other modifications are added. **Vents** for releasing gases and a **gate** for pouring are added. The wax is covered with clay and charcoal until a large **mold** is in place. Mold is placed in a **kiln** or **furnace** to melt the wax out. Next you add a chamber the same size of the empty mold was made of clay and charcoal and fill it with a single metal or an alloy made of several metals. The open end of the vessel laden with metal was attached to the open end of the mold using more clay mixed with charcoal. The two chambers are placed in a kiln with the metal laden chamber at the top so that the metal will run into the mold when it melts. Advantages are both the mold and metal reach the same temperature. Disadvantages are that the mold and metal chamber can only be used once and the second disadvantage is that the metal container is not practical for mixing metals; only for pouring.

icon = a word, **sign** or an image that represents something.

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iconography = **symbolic** representation of human life and human activities, with meanings attached to the images or **icons**, the early stages of **pictograph character** writing.

kente cloth = is a style of weaving done on a narrow men's strip loom. Kente means "basket weave design". The Akan speaking people produce kente cloth.

kiln = an industrial oven or **furnace** used fire clay, brick, or melt glass also used in drying material such as **lumber**.

lumber = timber that has been shaped into **planks** or **board**, a three dimensional criteria expressed in cubic dimensions.

manifestation = an idea or something theoretical made real.

marsh = an area of low-lying waterlogged land , often beside water, that is poorly drained and liable to flood, difficult, to cross on foot, and unfit for agriculture or building.

monolith = "one stone" - in art we refer to stone or wood carved from one piece of stone or timber as monoliths meaning nothing was added or attached. The working process was subtractive not additive.

molten = melted substance that glows as a result of great heat, a term often used in reference to metal casting.

native = originating, produced, growing, or living naturally in a particular place.

nwentoma = is the name that Akan people use for kente cloth.

occupation = an activity on which time is spent.

ore = a mineral from which metal is extracted.

organism = living thing and/or parasite of something that lives, plant, animal, **virus**, or bacterium.

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parasite = an **organism** or a non-living particle that changes or lives inside another organism used as a **host**.

pictograph = a graphic **symbol** or picture representing a word or idea in some writing systems, as opposed to a symbol such as letter of the alphabet representing an individual sound.

precipitation = the formation of rain, sleet, snow or hail from moisture in the air.

predecessor = something replaced by something else such as an **ancestor** art form or something previously in use or existence that has been replaced or succeeded by another.

rainforest = a thick evergreen **tropical** forest found in areas of heavy rainfall and trees with broad leaves that form a continuous **canopy**. In the old days tropical rain forest had several layers of **ceiling** and on each layer there was a community of life consisting of plant and animals **native** to that layer. A rain forest has rain fall twelve months out of the year.

relic = something from the deceased that is kept and venerated because it once belonged to an **ancestor**.

relief printing = a carved flat piece of wood, **calabash** or other material is dipped in ink then stamped on top of the cloth or paper thus the part of the un-carved wood or other object leaves the printed design sitting on top of the cloth or paper.

reliquary a container or shrine where **relics** such as the remains of a person are kept.

repoussé = this is a French word for the art of **embossing** soft and medium metal materials, decorating, shaping or sculpting metal by raising the surface through pounding it with a hammer.

resist printing = generally refers to text style. Part of the design is blocked out with past or wax so that ink or color can not enter those areas covered with **wax** or **starch**.

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sahel = is the **ecoclimatic** and **biogeographic** zone of transition between the Sahara **desert** in the North and the Sudanian **Savannas** in the south.

savanna = a flat grassland, sometimes with scattered trees, in a **tropical** or subtropical region.

sign = is something representing a person, place, thing or an idea, something that indicates or expresses the existence of something else not immediately apparent.

slag = fused glassy material that is produced when a metal is separated from its ore during melting.

smelting = the science of melting **ore** in order to get metal from it. The separation of metal from the ore usually requires a chemical charge which takes place inside a smelting **furnace**.

smithy = a place where a blacksmith works.

silica = **glass**, **silicon** dioxide found naturally in various **crystalline** and **amorphous** forms which include quartz, opal, sand, flint and agate.

species = (biological definition) is a **taxonomic** group, a subdivision of a genus considered as a biological classification and containing individuals that resemble one another and may interbreed (example **Homo sapiens neanderthalensis** are two similar species that could interbreed).

starch resist = design is put on the fabric to keep the dye out. The dye only colors the cloth where there is no starch. Starch will sit on top of the cloth rather than penetrate through the cloth surface.

stencil = plate with cutout design, a thin sheet of material with a shape cut out of it through which paint or ink is applied to mark the shape on another surface, such as in **silkscreen** and **adire eleko** printing.

steppe = an extensive, usually treeless plain, often dry and grass-covered.

synoptic vision = represents several view points of perspective in the same art piece.

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taxonomic = a set of principals for classifying **organisms**, the science of classifying plants, animals and **microorganisms** into increasingly broader categories based on shared features. Traditionally, organisms were grouped by physical resemblance, but in recent times other criteria such as generic matching have also been used.

timber = trees cut by humans or beavers for the purpose of using as fuel, food, medicine or making something. Timber is a **cultural derivative**; not nature.

tropical = a very hot and often combined with a high degree of humidity.

virus = is a non-living parasitic microscopic particle of nucleic acid surrounded by protein that can only replicate within the **host** cell.

wax resist = design is put on the fabric to keep the dye out. The dye only colors the cloth where there is no wax. In wax resist the design is the same on both sides. Wax is heated so that it melts through the cloth on both sides.

wedging = similar to kneading of bread dough. The objective of wedging clay is to remove the air pockets from the clay.

wetlands = swampy land, a **marsh**, **swamp**, **bayou**, or other area of land where the soil near the surface is saturated or covered with water, especially one that forms a **habitat** for wildlife.