

Study Guide for the Midterm in ART427: Arts of Africa and the Diaspora

Be able to discuss authenticity:

what factors led to this as an issue (ie, who cares and why does anyone care about authenticity)?

How does the context of the issue relate to the definition of authenticity?

What arguments can be made against the concept/condition of authenticity?

What are traditional arts? This is not a question about specific examples but about the meaning. How does the focus on traditional arts intersect with and perhaps void the discussion of authenticity?

You should be able to discuss images from units 2 and 3 in terms of functionality, icons, and tradition. A general identification will be helpful for discussion purposes.

Based on the rather small amount of material we've studied about African arts, what issues emerge which suggest differences between our standard notions of art, as based on Yinka Shonibare, as we discussed in class, is a good example of many of the issues facing diasporan artists. In general, what is the double bind facing these artists? How does Shonibare try to resolve them in his work? You should be able to recognize a work of art by Shonibare and discuss it in terms of the social and aesthetic issues he brought up in his interview in the textbook and in the dvd we watched in class. The PBS Art21 website has some information about Shonibare from the interview in the program; unfortunately, the video for Season 5 is not available online at this time.

You will receive a short paragraph for paraphrasing on the text.

Finally, you should be able to indicate a definite decision about the focus of your term project with a few sentences about the reason for your choice, and two bibliographic references at this time.

You may use notes for this exam.