Non-Western Art History

African Art: Central

Figure, H: 40 inches, 19th-20th century, Unknown Bangwa Artist, Cameroon, Metropolitan Museum of Art

Bottle, H: 26 inches, late 19th-early 20th century, Unknown Bamum Artist, Cameroon, National Museum of African Art

Throne, 19th century, H: 18.5 inches, Unknown Bemanda Artist, Cameroon, Detroit Institute of Art
The Luba and Lunda Empires - Politics & Religion
- Developed in 17th & 18th century in Central African savanna
- Multi-ethnic, large scale states
- Wealth from imported crops and technologies
- Strong central government subdued neighboring chiefdoms, regulated trade and increased wealth and stability of region
- Sacred kingship and rule by council; government could withstand succession disputes; effective dealing with foreign leaders

The Luba and Lunda Empires - Art
- Art forms associated with imperial rule spread throughout the region
- Luba court traditions adopted by client states - staffs, headrests, bow stands, and royal seats
- Forms included sweeping curves and intricate details
- Central to Luba arts of leadership were female incarnations of ancestral kings
- Lunda chiefs commissioned artists from client states to create artworks.
African Art: Central

Staff: Female Figure,
H: 60 inches,
19th-20th century,
Unknown Luba Artist,
Democratic Republic of Congo,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

Seated Chief (Mwanangara),
H: 16 inches, Before 1869,
Unknown Chokwe Artist, Angola,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

Mother and Child,
H: 13.5 inches,
19th - 20th century,
Unknown Kongo Artist,
Angola or Democratic Republic of the Congo,
Metropolitan Museum of Art
African Art: Central

Staff: Female Half Torso,
H: 18 inches, 19th-20th century,
Unknown Ovimbundu Artist, Angola,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

Male Figure, 19th century,
H: 37 inches,
Unknown Songye Artist,
Democratic Republic of the Congo,
Minneapolis Institute of Art

Nkisi (Nail Figure),
H: 16 inches
20th century,
Unknown Kongo Artist,
Democratic Republic of Congo,
Minneapolis Institute of Art

Yet Belt, 20th century,
W: 25 inches,
Unknown Kuba Artist, Democratic
Republic of the Congo,
Minneapolis Institute of Art

Divination Basket, W: 12 inches
mid-19th century - early 20th century,
Unknown Chokwe Artist,
Democratic Republic of Congo,
National Museum of African Art
This ends our presentation on Central African Art.