

A Study of Maasai Jewelry and Fulani Textile Material Culture used in Selected Rites of Passage for Sustainable Development

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ABSTRACT

This study reveals the Maasai Jewelry and Fulani textile material cultures through painting. The two material cultures and communities are similar though situated at different countries in Africa. Hybridization in art happens when material cultures from two or more communities combine to create new innovations. This infusion though has been criticized by scholars to lack portrayal of African identity yet some argued that authentic African paintings could be achieved when two or more African material cultures are hybridized. The aim of this study is to identify Kenyan Maasai jewelry material culture and Nigerian Fulani textile material culture used at selected rites of passage which could be hybridized to produce new paintings. The main question is “*What Maasai jewelry material culture and Fulani textile material culture are used in selected rites of passage?*” The results confirmed that Kenyan Maasai Collar Linear Beaded patterns jewelry and geometric Woven Fabric of Fulani textiles could be successfully used as a source of inspiration in the production of paintings. The importance of this study is to enable African artists develop original paintings inspired by material culture from different perspectives. It will also promote cultural harmony between selected African communities for sustainable development.

Keywords: Hybridization, Jewelry, Textile, Kenyan Maasai, Nigerian, Fulani, Painting

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