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Oshogbo Art in the 1960s at the National Museum of African Art

Susanne Wenger, *Untitled* (1960s), National Museum of African Art

The exhibit "A Concrete Vision: Oshogbo Art in the 1960s" depicts contemporary life in Oshogbo, Nigeria and contains works by 11 Oshogbo artists. The exhibition features concrete screens, drawings, paintings, textiles, furniture, and works in stone, aluminum and yarn.

During the 1960s, an artistic transformation arose in this Yoruba town. Visual, literary and performance artists freely combined traditional forms with modern artistic influences and a willingness to experiment with new techniques and materials. Defying narrow categorization, these pioneering artists of the Oshogbo school forged an artistic identity that gained them international fame and patronage. "Outside the academic art community, these artists articulated the principles of a true artistic movement," says David Binkley, chief curator of the Museum of African Art.

Oshogbo movement artists include: Jacob Afolabi, Jimoh Buraimoh, Adebisi Fabunmi, Buraimoh Gbadamosi, Rufus Ogundele, Asiru Olatunde, Muraina Oyelami and Twins Seven-Seven (Ogundele and Olatunde are now deceased.) The Oshogbo artists were largely self-taught townspeople. The most talented and creative individuals became professional artists and have attained international reputations through exhibitions in Europe and the United States. All of the living artists remain active participants in Nigeria's cultural life. Georgina Beier and Susanne Wenger—two expatriate artists who came to Oshogbo from England and Austria respectively—worked with the Oshogbo artists, conducted workshops, introduced them to new materials and techniques, and encouraged them to find their own forms of expression.

Jimoh Buraimoh, *Unity is Essential (table)* (1960s), National Museum of African Art

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