An Introduction to Ugandan Art
African Art and the West

- African art was misunderstood/ignored by the West until 1900’s
- African art was ignored due to ethnocentrism
  - African art viewed as inferior
  - Realism was view until modern art became popular.
- Famous Western artists were influenced by African art
  - Picasso and Matisse
MASK OF GABON

PICASSO – THREE FIGURES UNDER A TREE 1907
Art is a means of communicating one’s experience.

Visual expression or account of the culture and of a people as seen by the individual.

Through engraving, sculpting, painting, cultures relate their ideas, beliefs, values, norms, customs, attitudes, traditions, and feelings.
The Traditional African Art

- Traditional African Art found before the Europeans includes...
  - Rock drawings, roughly carved human heads, sculptures, basketry, instruments, printed texts

- Traditional African Art was functional
  - Fulfills requirements of the everyday
    - Clothing, housing, rituals, economic, political, war, and entertainment
  - Secondary is for aesthetics
Melted wax is applied to the fabric before dipped into dye.
Wherever the wax oozes through the tissue, the dye can not penetrate.
Designers from Acholi Quarter in Kampala
Ugandan Ceramics: Pottery School in Kampala
Graduated from the School of Industrial and Fine Arts at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda in 1993

Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence at Christian Brothers University in Memphis

Multi-color woodcut artist who depicts stories about critical social events in Uganda or that portray images indigenous to the Ugandan environment
Ugandan Dance

- Baakisiimba, Nankasa, Muwogola
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTZO9G-mwis](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTZO9G-mwis)
Ugandan Instruments

- Wind, bow, and percussion
Enkwanzi

Amadinda
Buganda Traditional Music

- [Link](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8HsXKZFP1c)
Fred Masagazi
- Popular in the 1960’s
- Incorporates guitar
- Kadongo Kamu

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1pibDrOCuI
Hip Hop/Pop Music

- Jose Chameleon
- Bebe Cool
- Halima Namakula
  - Recipients or nominees for the Pearl of African Music Awards
  - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YEMrQA4k
Uganda Women Writers' Association (FEMRITE)
- Published 31 books in the categories of novels, short stories, poetry and children's books.

Other authors
- Tabon Lo Liyoung—male poet and author
- Doreen Baingana — *Tropical Fish: Tales from Entebbe*
- Okot p’Bitek—male poet and novelist from Gulu