



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of African Art*

"Togu na and Cheko Change and Continuity in  
the Art of Mali" video, EEPA 1989-030, 1989

Paul Wood

2011

Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, National Museum of African Art  
National Museum of African Art  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, National Museum of African Art
<b>Title:</b>	"Togu na and Cheko Change and Continuity in the Art of Mali" video
<b>Date:</b>	1989
<b>Identifier:</b>	EEPA.1989-030
<b>Creator:</b>	National Museum of African Art (U.S.)
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Video recording ((28:00 min.) ; sound, color)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The videorecording "Togu na and Check: Change and Continuity in the Art of Mali", which documents two forms of art of the Dogon and Bamana peoples in Mali, West Africa, in 1989.
<b>Container:</b>	Video 6

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Videorecording produced by Staniski Media Resources for use by the National Museum of African Art in its exhibition entitled, "Icons: Ideals and Power in the Art of Africa," which was held at the Museum from October 25, 1989 to September 3, 1990.

### Restrictions

Use of original records requires an appointment. Contact Archives staff for more details.

### Conditions Governing Use

Permission to reproduce images from the Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives must be obtained in advance. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

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## Scope and Contents

The videorecording "Togu na and Check: Change and Continuity in the Art of Mali", which documents two forms of art of the Dogon and Bamana peoples in Mali, West Africa, in 1989. Accompanying text describes that the film "explores two forms of art in present-day Mali, West Africa. For the Dogon peoples, the meeting house, or toguna, is the centerpiece of each village. Men gather to discuss matters involving the entire community. Its massive millet-stalk roof is supported by columns masterfully sculpted with figures in high relief. The Bamana peoples have developed a unique form of communal theater, called cheko. The principal actors in cheko performances are colorful, animated puppets. Some of these puppets are small enough to be manipulated by hand. Others tower above the rooftops of the village and require two or more people to move them. These fascinating Dogon and Bamana works of art depict both traditional and contemporary themes. They vividly show how art continues to evolve in Africa today."

## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Bamana (African people)  
Dogon (African people)

Cultures:

Bamana (African people)  
Dogon (African people)

Places:

Africa

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## Container Listing

### Video 1

Togu na and Cheko Change and Continuity in the Art of Mali, 1989

1 Item (videocassette (28:00 min.) (umatic ; sd., col.; 1 in.)

Creator: National Museum of African Art (U.S.)

Notes: Video indexed by video number.

Videorecording of two forms of art of Dogon and Bamana peoples in Mali, West Africa, in 1989. Text accompanying video for sale reads, "Togu na and Cheko: Change and Continuity in the Art of Mali explore two forms of art in present-day Mali, West Africa. For the Dogon peoples, the meetinghouse, or toguna, is the centerpiece of each village. Men gather to discuss matters involving the entire community. Its massive millet-stalk roof is supported by columns masterfully sculpted with figures in high relief. The Bamana peoples have developed a unique form of communal theater, called cheko. The principal actors in cheko performances are colorful, animated puppets. Some of these puppets are small enough to be manipulated by hand. Others tower above the rooftops of the village and require two or more people to move them. These fascinating Dogon and Bamana works of art depict both traditional and contemporary themes. They vividly show how art continues to evolve in Africa today."

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Produced by Stanski Media Resources for the National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, 1989.

Place: Africa

Togu na and Cheko [videorecording] : Change and Continuity in the Art of Mali, 1989

1 Item (videocassette (27:00 min.) (umatic ; sd., col.; 3/4 in.)

Creator: National Museum of African Art (U.S.)

Notes: Short version of a videorecording of West African textile making produced by Staniski Media Resources for the National Museum of African Art in 1989. Text accompanying videos for sale reads, "Togu na and Cheko: Change and Continuity in the Art of Mali explores two dynamic forms of art in present-day Mali, WestAfrica. For the Dogon peoples, the meetinghouse, or togu na, is the centerpiece of each village. Men gather there to discuss matters involving the entire community. It massive millet-stalk roof is supported by columns masterfully sculpted with figures in high relief. The Bamana peoples have developed a unique form of communal theater, called cheko. The principle actors in cheko performances are colorful, animated puppets. Some of these puppets are small enough to be manipulated by hand. Others tower above the rooftops of the village and require two or more people to move them. These fascinating Dogon and Bamana works of art depict both traditional and contemporary themes. They vividly show how art continues to evolve in Africa today.

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Place: Africa

Togu na and Cheko [videorecording] : Change and Continuity in the Art of Mali, 1989

1 Item (videocassette (8:39 min.) (umatic ; sd., col.; 1 in.)

Creator: National Museum of African Art (U.S.)

Notes: Short version videorecording of West African textile making produced by Staniski Media Resources for the National Museum of African Art in 1989. Text accompanying videos for sale reads, "Togu na and Cheko: Change and Continuity in the Art of Mali explores two dynamic forms of art in present-day Mali, WestAfrica. For the Dogon peoples, the meetinghouse, or togu na, is the centerpiece of each village. Men gather there to discuss matters involving the entire community. It massive millet-stalk roof is supported by columns masterfully sculpted with figures in high relief. The Bamana peoples have developed a unique form of communal theater, called cheko. The principle actors in cheko performances are colorful, animated puppets. Some of these puppets are small enough to be manipulated by hand. Others tower above the rooftops of the village and require two or more people to move them. These fascinating Dogon and Bamana works of art depict both traditional and contemporary themes. They vividly show how art continues to evolve in Africa today.

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Place: Africa

Togu na and Cheko [videorecording] : Change and Continuity in the Art of Mali, 1989

1 Item (videocassette (28:00 min.) (VHS ; sd., col.; 1/2 in.)

Creator: National Museum of African Art (U.S.)

Notes: Short versin of a videorecording of West African textile making produced by Staniski Media Resources for the National Museum of African Art in 1989. Text accompanying videos for sale reads, "Togu na and Cheko: Change and Continuity in the Art of Mali explores two dynamic forms of art in present-day Mali, WestAfrica. For the Dogon peoples, the meetinghouse, or togu na, is the centerpiece of each village. Men gather there to discuss matters involving the entire community. It massive millet-stalk roof is supported by columns masterfully sculpted with figures in high relief. The Bamana peoples have developed a unique form of communal theater, called cheko. The principle actors in cheko performances are colorful, animated puppets. Some of these puppets are small enough to be manipulated by hand. Others tower above the rooftops of the village and require two or more people to move them. These fascinating Dogon and Bamana works of art depict both traditional and contemporary

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Place: Africa

Togu na and Cheko [videorecording] : Change and Continuity in the Art of Mali, 1989

1 Item (videocassette (36:00 min.)) (umatic ; sd., col.; 3/4 in.)

Creator: National Museum of African Art (U.S.)

Notes: Videorecording of West African textile making produced by Staniski Media Resources for the National Museum of African Art in 1989. Text accompanying videos for sale reads, "Togu na and Cheko: Change and Continuity in the Art of Mali explores two dynamic forms of art in present-day Mali, WestAfrica. For the Dogon peoples, the meetinghouse, or togu na, is the centerpiece of each village. Men gather there to discuss matters involving the entire community. It massive millet-stalk roof is supported by columns masterfully sculpted with figures in high relief. The Bamana peoples have developed a unique form of communal theater, called cheko. The principle actors in cheko performances are colorful, animated puppets. Some of these puppets are small enough to be manipulated by hand. Others tower above the rooftops of the village and require two or more people to move them. These fascinating Dogon and Bamana works of art depict both traditional and contemporary themes. They vividly show how art continues to evolve in Africa today.

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Place: Africa

Togu na and Cheko [videorecording] : Change and Continuity in the Art of Mali, 1989

1 Item (videocassette (27:00 min.)) (VHS) (PAL ; sd., col.; 1/2 in.)

Creator: National Museum of African Art (U.S.)

Notes: Videorecording of West African textile making produced by Staniski Media Resources for the National Museum of African Art in 1989. Text accompanying videos for sale reads, "Togu na and Cheko: Change and Continuity in the Art of Mali explores two dynamic forms of art in present-day Mali, WestAfrica. For the Dogon peoples, the meetinghouse, or togu na, is the centerpiece of each village. Men gather there to discuss matters involving the entire community. Its massive millet-stalk roof is supported by columns masterfully sculpted with figures in high relief. The Bamana peoples have developed a unique form of communal theater, called cheko. The principle actors in cheko performances are colorful, animated puppets. Some of these puppets are small enough to be manipulated by hand. Others tower above the rooftops of the village and require two or more people to move them. These fascinating Dogon and Bamana works of art depict both traditional and contemporary themes. They vividly show how art continues to evolve in Africa today.  
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