



Smithsonian

National Museum of African Art

Simon Ottenberg Collection (Nsukka Modern Art Project)

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

Repository:	Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, National Museum of African Art
Title:	Nsukka Modern Art Project
Date:	1992-1997
Identifier:	EEPA.2012-011
Creator:	Ottenberg, Simon (Photographer)
Extent:	2147 Slides (photographs) (35 mm) 125 Prints 35 Negatives (photographic) (35 mm)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Provenance

Donated by Simon Ottenberg, 2012.

Related Materials

Simon Ottenberg Papers are located at the National Anthropological Archives, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution--and at the Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies at Northwestern University. Related EEPA collections include: EEPA 1996-020 and EEPA 1994-012 (video-recorded interviews conducted by Ottenberg), EEPA 2000-007 (photographs taken in Southeastern Nigeria within the Afikpo Village Group), and EEPA 2005-001, Simon Ottenberg photographs of Limba and Afikpo Peoples.

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.

Biographical / Historical

Simon Ottenberg (1923-) is Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at the University of Washington (1955-1991). He studied under Melville J. Herskovits and William R. Bascom at Northwestern University and earned his PhD in 1956. He was a 1970 Guggenheim fellow. His areas of interest included African art, sociocultural anthropology, and indigenous North American cultures. He published multiple books during his career including *Double Descent in African Society* and *Boyhood Rituals in African Society*, and has curated numerous exhibitions.

His initial fieldwork in Nigeria during the 1950s and 1960s focused on traditional arts of the Afikpo Igbo culture. In the early 1990s, Ottenberg redirected his scholarship toward modern and contemporary Nigerian

art. Ottenberg also worked with the Limba of northern Sierra Leone in the 1970s. After retirement, Ottenberg pursued his interest in Northwest Coast Native American art, in particular Coast Salish art.

Scope and Contents

This collection include approximately 2,231 color 35 mm slides, negatives, prints, and associated documentation, field notes, and artist indexes related to the Nsukka Modern Art Project. Simon Ottenberg created these materials during several periods of field research in Nigeria from 1992 -1997.

Arrangement

Materials kept in original order. Captions created by staff and donor metadata.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Places:

Nigeria, Eastern

Container Listing

Book I - Uli Various Photos

Binder 1

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Book II - Adenaike - Amas

Binder 1

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Book III - Anatsui - Aniakor

Binder 2

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Book IV - Anidi - Ezedu

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Book V - Gbadan - Nwoko

Binder 3

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Book VI - Ray Obeta - Ego Uche Okeke

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Book VII - Uche Okeke - Okocha Ota

Binder 4

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Book VIII - Uchendu - Uwatse

Binder 4

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Notes and Inventory Documents

Box 1

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