

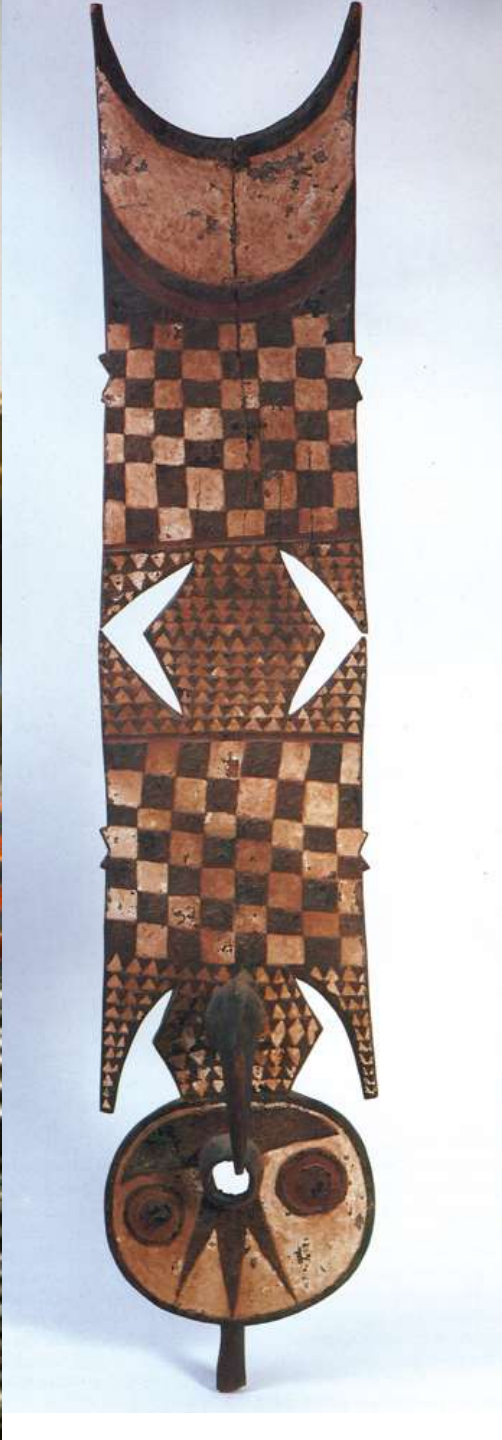


# Burkina Faso



# Bwa People

- [Bwa Initiation dance \(long\)](#)
- [Bwa Initiation dance \(short\)](#)
- [Bwa Initiation \(medium\)](#)
- [Bwa \(long\)](#)
- [Bwa people](#)
- [Do \(or Dwo\): God of the wilderness](#)























# Bwa Plank Mask Symbolism

Their wearer looks through a hole in the mouth. The eyes are based on an owl and the hooked nose comes from the hornbill. Both these birds are thought to possess magical powers.

The plank section is decorated with geometric patterns which are used as a coded language where the design communicates secret knowledge to those in the know.

- White: lack of knowledge of initiates
- Black: knowledge of the elders that the initiates need to acquire
- Red: life and danger
- Zig-zag pattern: difficult path to understanding.















# Bwa initiation ceremonies

Those Bwa members who have gone through initiation—a process of transitioning from a child to an adult member of society—are grouped together in age grades. During ceremonies, they adorn and praise the masks that are being performed as a group. It is also important to note that these mask performances are not gender specific. Women are very much a part of these events just as much as their male counterparts.



















# Nick Cave (1959- )

## Creating a Dream Space

Nick Cave is an American fabric sculptor, performance artist, and dancer. He was born on February 4, 1959, in Fulton, Missouri. Currently, Cave lives in Chicago, Illinois where he works at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago as a director of the graduate fashion program. Nick Cave's work is inspired by African art traditions, ceremonial dresses, armor, designed textiles, and haute-couture fashion as well as stereotypical feminine items.



# Soundsuits

Soundsuits are surreally majestic objects blending fashion and sculpture—that originated as metaphorical suits of armor in response to the Rodney King beatings and have evolved into vehicles for empowerment. Fully concealing the body, the “Soundsuits” serve as an alien second skin that obscures race, gender, and class, allowing viewers to look without bias towards the wearer’s identity. Cave regularly performs in the sculptures himself, dancing either before the public or for the camera, activating their full potential as costume, musical instrument, and living icon.





Dark Noise—1<sup>st</sup> soundsuit



































# Assignment suggestions

- Create an inviting dream space
- Project inward feeling outward. Transform emotion into art.
- Design your own suit of armor or protective coat.
- Encase an object or form
- Take a recognizable form and obscure it with pattern and texture.
- Make a collage, paint or photograph a still life of knick-knacks from your home.