

West Africa

Unfortunately this exhibition can only present a very small example of West African arts and culture, which is hugely diverse and has developed over thousands of years.

Although some of the objects display here may be modern, they show that traditional objects still have a power and meaning, especially to West Africans living abroad as a reminder of home.

SHIRT (modern)

This type of Ghanaian Kente cloth is normally woven on a narrow loom and strips are stitched together to create a highly prized, colourful fabric. It was bought in Accra, the capital of Ghana, as a present in 2007.

MASK - from Benin or Togo (modern)

BAG (modern)

This leather bag comes from the Hausa people in the north of Ghana. It is made from red skinned cattle.

STOOL - Asante stool (modern)

Though once politically independent, Asante, together with other Akan-speaking peoples, is now an ethnic state in the west African country of Ghana. Most people have their own stool and they can be very simple or elaborate depending on the status of the person.

CARVING - wooden Asante carving of a woman (modern)

SCULPTURE – wooden 'Unity' figures (modern)

FINGER PIANO - called an 'ogbengelege'

This is made from a calabash fruit seed and was originally owned by the donor's, John Anyanwu's, grandfather.

Loaned by Nana Boateng, John Anyanwu and the Islington Artefacts Library