



***Colon* statuettes**

Colon (colonial) figures, painted wooden statuettes of French colonists, Westerners or even Africans in Western attire, have been a mainstay of the African souvenir trade over the last forty years. Wooden figures in this style were originally developed for use in indigenous religious ceremonies. In the late 1950s, towards the end of French colonial rule in Côte d'Ivoire, civil servants, soldiers and other foreign travellers began commissioning self-portraits as souvenirs, giving rise to an entirely new genre of tourist art.

Art and Artefact

What art dealers, collectors and art historians refer to as 'authentic', 'primitive' or 'traditional art' are mainly objects made by members of small societies in their traditional style. These objects have a traditional role in social or religious circumstances. Artefacts on the other hand, which we consider as tourist souvenirs, are having an ever-growing effect and not only on economies and local craft practices. The souvenir market based on a simple supply and demand economic model, has an influencing effect on a cultural level, through stylistic and artistic interactions.

