

**Abstract:**

The work is focused on the influence of African art, reflected in the work of Western artists. It is divided into several chapters in which the author deals with the elements of African culture in Western works of art from 19th century to mid-20th century. The work pays attention to the process of exploring the African continent by Europeans, from which the author theoretically rebounds. Further evolve the theme of trade with African artifacts and their export to Europe, through which penetrated African art to a wider audience and so the next stage of contact and a dialogue between the two worlds.

In the first part, the author reveals the historical context of the Euro-African relations in general. In the following chapters is devoted to artistic expressions that result from these relationships. Based on the analysis of scientific literature compares a source of infiltration of African elements into Western art in a historical context, maps these tendencies until the 20th century and focuses on the variability of the image of foreign culture through art.

The result is a summary of current knowledge in the field and raise questions about the meaning and results of cultural contact through works of art, his displays and deformation of image of foreign culture.

**Keywords:**

primitive art, european fine art, art movements of 20th century, african culture, western culture