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Gallery: Voodoo - Images and Objects

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VOODOO: Images and Objects

The much maligned island of Haiti, in the Caribbean, is a black republic peopled by gentle peasants who are among the poorest in the world. Although poor, Haiti is rich in culture, particularly in the expressions the people give to their religious beliefs. God and their Voodoo spirits (Loas) are an integral part of their daily lives.

Voodoo is a conglomeration of beliefs and rites of African and Indian origin, which, having been closely mixed with Catholic practice, has come to be the religion of Haiti. Its devotees ask of it what men have always asked of religion: remedy for ills, satisfaction for needs and the hope for survival.

Voodoo symbols have become part of Haitian art work. At least two sequined flags (TAPIS DE VOODOO) depicting various invocational designs (VEVERS) are found in each gathering place of worship (PERISTYLE). The priest (HOUGAN) and priestess (MAMBO) conduct the service within the inner chamber (HOMFOUR). In the Homfour, are kept many ceremonial objects which reveal the Haitian views on their relationship to God and their Voodoo spirits.

This display of Voodoo Images and Objects appeared at the Wallace Anderson Art Gallery at Bridgewater State College.
Papa Sobo
Flag
Fabric and sequins
36 1/2" h x 32" w

Artist unknown
Carnival Mask
Papier mache'
8 1/2" h x 6 1/2" w

Michelle
Carnival Mask
Papier mache'
11" h x 11" w

Michelle
Carnival Mask
Papier mache'
9 3/4" h x 9 1/2" w

Michelle
Ogdan
Papier mache'
28 1/2" h x 17" w

Robert St. Brice
Untitled
Oil on canvas
30" h x 20" w