

learning library ONLINE!

October 2022

BEGIN TRANSCRIPT

Welcome to 'Art Vids for Kids'! My name is Violette-Anne and together we will be looking at this colorful African sculpture.

This artwork was created by the Bozo, a group of people who live in Mali, which is a country in Africa. Which colors can you find in both the artwork and the Malian flag? The bright green, yellow and red colors are in fact included in the flag of many African countries.

Did you notice the long piece of unpainted wood below the antelope's head? It is a handle to hold the sculpture so it can be used in a puppet show! The Bozo people have been making puppets for a very long time. Their puppet performances tell stories of heroic deeds, leadership, and social relationships. The people who are in charge of the puppets are called dancers. They have special training to learn how to give power to their puppets so that the tales can touch the hearts and minds of the listeners.

In many ancient cultures, animals are part of mythical stories as well as of the everyday life of the community. For example, there is an oral tradition in Mali that speaks of a special antelope that brought agriculture, the science of farming, to Africa. Antelopes are also a common animal on that continent, and they come in all kinds of colors and horn shapes. Can you imagine why there is a bird on our wooden antelope head? In nature, birds sit on antelopes to both rest and eat the fleas that bother the antelopes: this win-win relationship is called a symbiosis.

Look closely at the animal's mouth. Do you notice anything around the antelope's jaw? These are rubber pieces to keep the jaw shut for the exhibit, but during a show, they would be removed so the puppet could open its mouth and give the impression of speaking.

What animals would you pick for your puppet show to tell your family's or community's values? You can see the Antelope Head Puppet at the Dayton Art Institute in Gallery 101, the Bonbright Gallery of African Art. Thank you for learning about art with us and check back next month for a new Art Vids for Kids!

END TRANSCRIPT



DAYTON ART INSTITUTE

Click [here](#) for full multimedia presentation.

FEATURED ARTWORKS*

Artist unidentified (Mali), *African Bamana or Bozo Marionette Head*. Private collection. Image via [liveauctioneers.com](#)

Artist unidentified (Colima, West Mexico), *Dog Effigy*, 200 BCE–300 CE, earthenware and slip paint. Dayton Art Institute. Museum purchase, 1960.15

Artist unidentified (unidentified culture, Panama), *Jaguar Effigy Metate*, 1200–1300 CE, basalt. Dayton Art Institute. Museum purchase, 1957.134

Artist unidentified (Persia, Abassid period, 750–1258 CE), *Bowl Decorated with Animals*, 10th century, earthenware with luster painting in yellow on white ground. Museum purchase with funds provided by the 1958 Associate Board Art Ball, 1968.74

Artist unidentified (China, Tang Dynasty, 618–907 CE), *Dancing Horse*, 7th century, earthenware with pigments. Gift of Mrs. Howard C. Davidson in memory of her mother, Mrs. Harrie G. Carnell, 1943.39

Artist unidentified (Hopewell people, American, 900–1300), *Owl Effigy Pipe*, about 900–1300, stone. Museum purchase, 1962.34

MEDIA CREDITS*

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QUESTIONS? edu@daytonart.org