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ETHNOHISTORY

Romanus Nzeke: *Master of Agiriga Mask Craft*

By Chuka Odike

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FEATURE
IMAGE

**Romanus Nzeke, a carver from Mgbala Agwa (in Oguta LGA, Imo State, Nigeria), repainting the Agiriga mask in 1983.
Source: Igbo Arts: Community and Cosmos by Herbert Cole.**

Article image · caption retained from the published Ozikoro article

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ROMANUS NZEKE

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This photo captures Romanus Nzeke, a skilled carver from Mgbala Agwa, in present-day Oguta Local Government Area, Imo State, Nigeria, repainting the Agiriga mask in 1983. The Agiriga mask is a key element in Igbo cultural ceremonies and symbolizes beauty and creativity. Romanus' precise craftsmanship and dedication to detail highlight his role in preserving traditional Igbo art. The mask, featuring bold lines and symbolic motifs, reflects the community's rich artistic heritage. Romanus' work demonstrates the importance of artisans in keeping cultural practices alive for future generations.

Cole, H. M. (1984). Igbo Arts: Community and Cosmos. Los Angeles: Museum of Cultural History, University of California.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chuka Odike

I'm a dedicated civil engineer with a passion for infrastructure development and community empowerment. With a strong background in engineering, my work focuses on creating sustainable solutions for urban and rural development projects. Outside of my professional career, I'm deeply interested in Igbo history and culture. I actively explore ways to impact society by using historical lessons to inspire and educate others about the rich cultural heritage of the Igbo people, aiming to bridge tradition and modern development.



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