Ode to Kinshasa

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Sense of Place

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Ode to Kinshasa, 1972

Take a closer look

Loïs Mailou Jones (1905–1998) incorporated different materials to create this piece, including paint, gold foil, and handmade paper. Many African sculptures display rich textures, which influenced Jones’s use of mixed media in this painting.

Something to talk about

Abstract works like Ode to Kinshasa rely on the viewer’s experience and associations to interpret the painting. How has the artist employed shape, color, and pattern to create a specific mood or sense of place?

Who knew?

Jones received a grant from Howard University to document contemporary African art of West and Central Africa, Haiti, and the United States in its original context. In 1970, she traveled to 11 African countries for research. This period of travel strongly influenced her art.

Loïs Mailou Jones, Ode to Kinshasa, 1972; Mixed media on canvas; 48 x 36 inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of the artist; © Lois M. Jones Pierre-Noel Trust