

1000

Introduction

Arnold Lehman: I'm Arnold Lehman, Director of the Brooklyn Museum, and I'm delighted to be joining you on a tour of *The Arts of Africa*. In 1923, Brooklyn was the first American museum to organize a major exhibition of African objects as art, rather than ethnographic history. I'm proud to say that our collection is one of the largest and most important collections of African art in the United States, and contains rare objects that are the only ones of their kind in this country.

You'll see masks, ceremonial items, statues, jewelry, royal regalia, and household objects. They represent cultures from across the African continent, and range in time from an Ethiopian cross dating to the thirteenth century to artwork from the present day.

The music that accompanies this audio tour is performed by musician Mamadou Diabate. He plays a West African harp, known as the *koro*. Although Diabate is from Mali, his music incorporates elements from other African nations and from his new home here in the United States.

I hope you enjoy your tour and your visit to the Brooklyn Museum.

For more information about these objects, be sure to visit www.brooklynmuseum.org