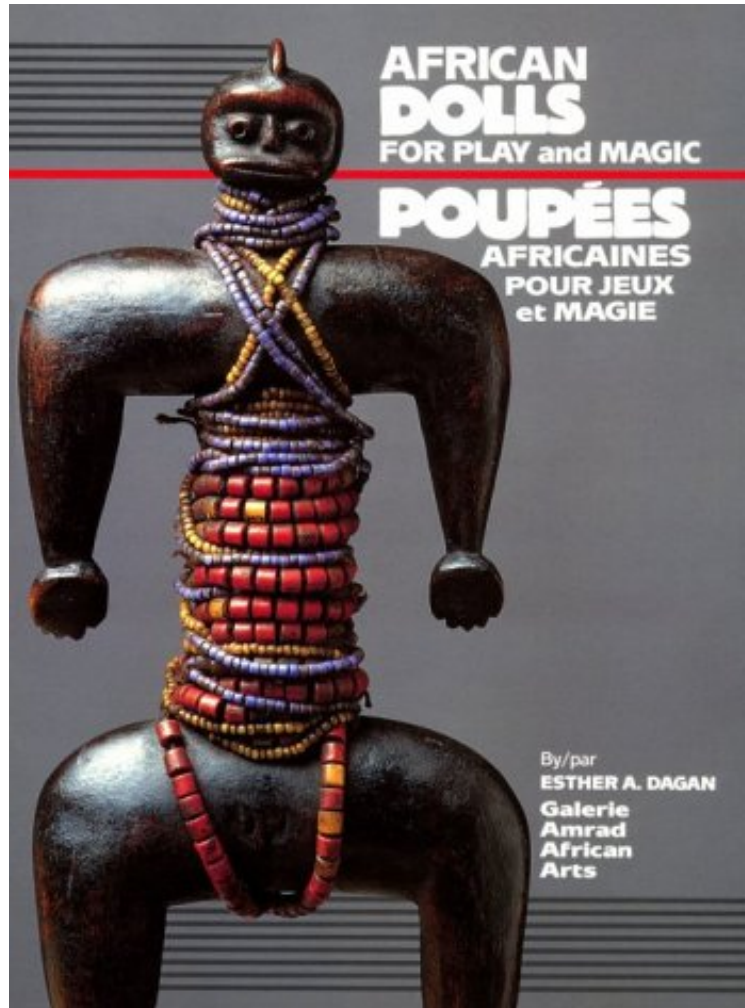


[Free download] African Dolls: For Play and for Magic

African Dolls: For Play and for Magic

Esther A. Dagan

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Esther A. Dagan : African Dolls: For Play and for Magic before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised African Dolls: For Play and for Magic:

This is fascinating book on African Dolls for Play and for Magic--a theme which has long been neglected. As playthings, the use of dolls is universal. In Africa however, they are used not only in the secular world, but also in meeting religious and ritual needs. Their sacred and profane functions overlap and co-exist. The toy dolls are ordinary objects for girl's play. Magical dolls clearly are not. The original intended theme of this publication was to be "the best of African dolls"--but the subject would have been subjective, aesthetic criteria. The idea was changed for three

reasons: (1) What we in the west consider the best is not necessarily seen as the best by Africans. (2) by focusing this publication in that way, we would have lost an opportunity to appreciate the extraordinary variations which occur in their shape, function and materials. (3) We did not wish by omission to neglect - the virtuosity, ingenuity and remarkable flexibility which characterize African creative activities. The resulting book touches upon the origins and universality of dolls and provides a view of their role and value to African societies driven and rooted in fertility. This book helps clarify the dolls (and where applicable figurines), social value. There are 35 countries from over 80 ethnic groups included in this book.