

MAISON DE FRANCE - LAGOS - April 2005



Hairstyles



ONIJEE GOGORO (KIKO) HD273/72

J.D.OKHAI OJEIKERE

15Th April - 28Th April 2005

Hairstyles

A coiffure is always more than just an expression of personal vanity and pride, it is also a mark of social status and occasion.

In Africa, hairstyling has long been considered an art form without equal. When the popular use of wigs in the 1950s and '60s led to the gradual disappearance of elaborate hair designs in the visual patterns of Nigerian life, J.D 'Okhai Ojeikere set out to preserve the tradition of hairdressing on film.

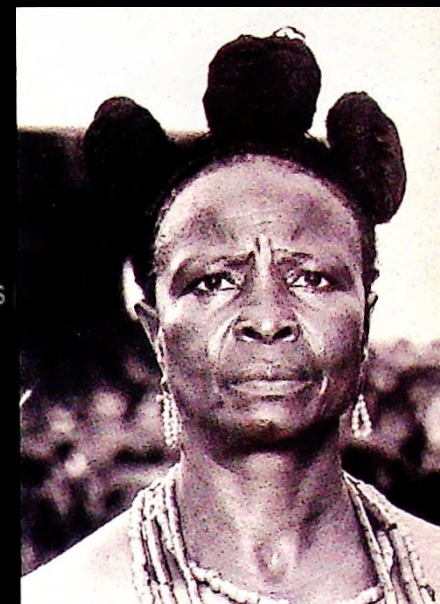


« ONONGO » HD594/74
Traditional hairstyle worn by the Kalabari people, Rivers State of Nigeria, during the « coming of age » ceremonies.
Coiffure traditionnelle des Kalabari dans l'Etat de Rivers pendant la Ceremonie du Passage à l'âge adulte.

« EKHA IGOGO » HD522/74

A hairstyle for traditional Dance Ceremony by Uneme Nekhua People of Edo State, an for traditional dance during « Igogo » Festival by people of Owo, Ondo State.

Coiffure pour danses traditionnelles



Since 1968, Ojeikere has made it a practice to photograph women's hairdos whenever he encounters an exceptional creation, be it on the street, at work, or at parties, and over the years he has compiled a comprehensive archive of more than a thousand photographs of hairstyles from all over Nigeria.

Some of these styles are designed for special occasions, others are meant for daily wear, but all of them are part of a larger cultural and historical landscape in which these elaborate designs pass from one generation to the next.

Ojeikere's photographs are shot as close up, from the back or in profile, and set against a black or white background to reveal the intricate designs and the formal beauty of each hairstyle.

Assembled over more than three decades, they serves as a documented memory of the past as well as a witness to a culture in constant evolution.



« SHANGALTI » HD748/71
This hairstyle is worn for
general outing by Kanuri
married women of Borno
State.

*Coiffure des femmes
mariées chez les Kanuri
(Etat de Borno).*



HD749/71

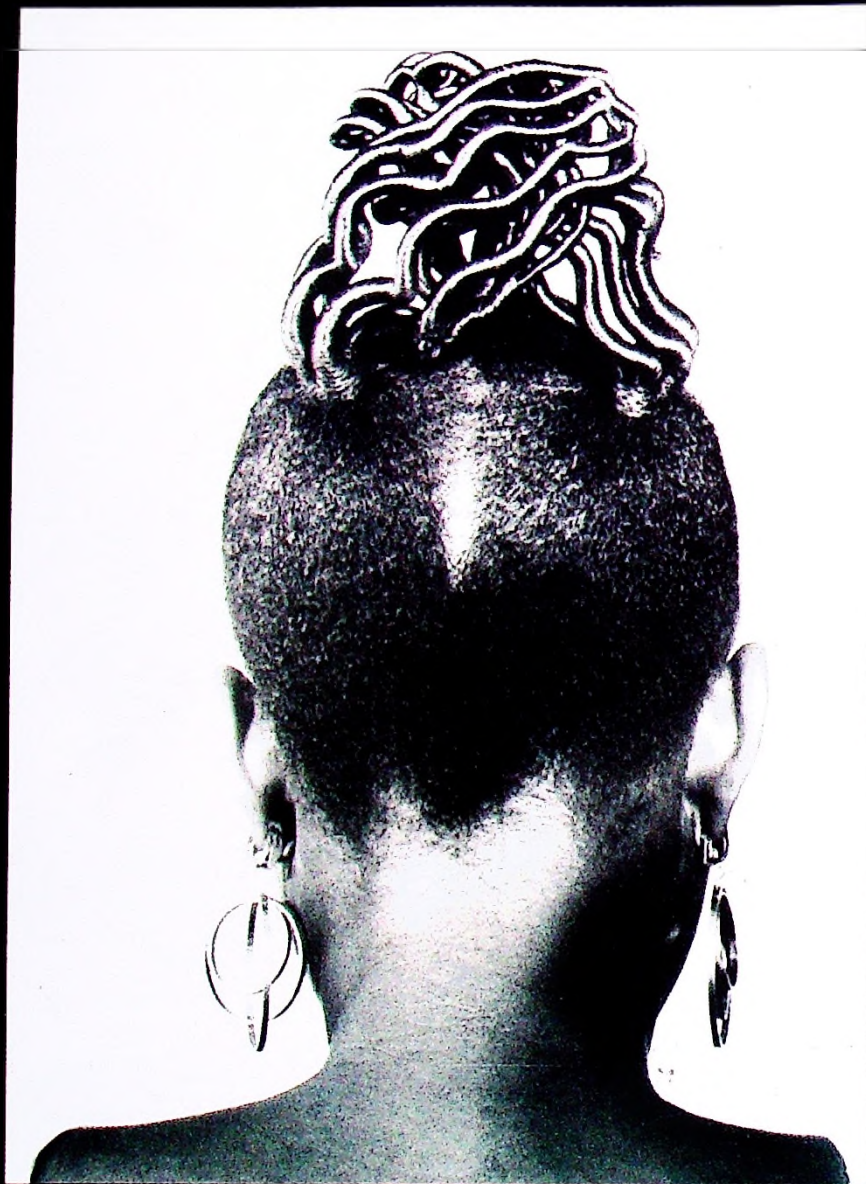


« ITO LOZI » HD217/71
Looks like a Crab.
Popular among young
ladies.

*Coiffure ressemblant à un
crabe d'où son nom.*



HD220/71



« SUKU SINERO » « KIKO » HD415/74

A hairstyle that is popular among high society girls.
It is thread plaited "Kiko" for social parties.

Coiffure constituée d'une tresse faite de fils. Se porte pour les soirées.

Coiffure en vogue chez les jeunes filles de bonne famille.



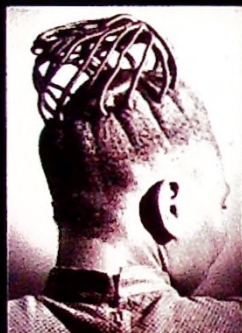
« OKUKU » HD461/74

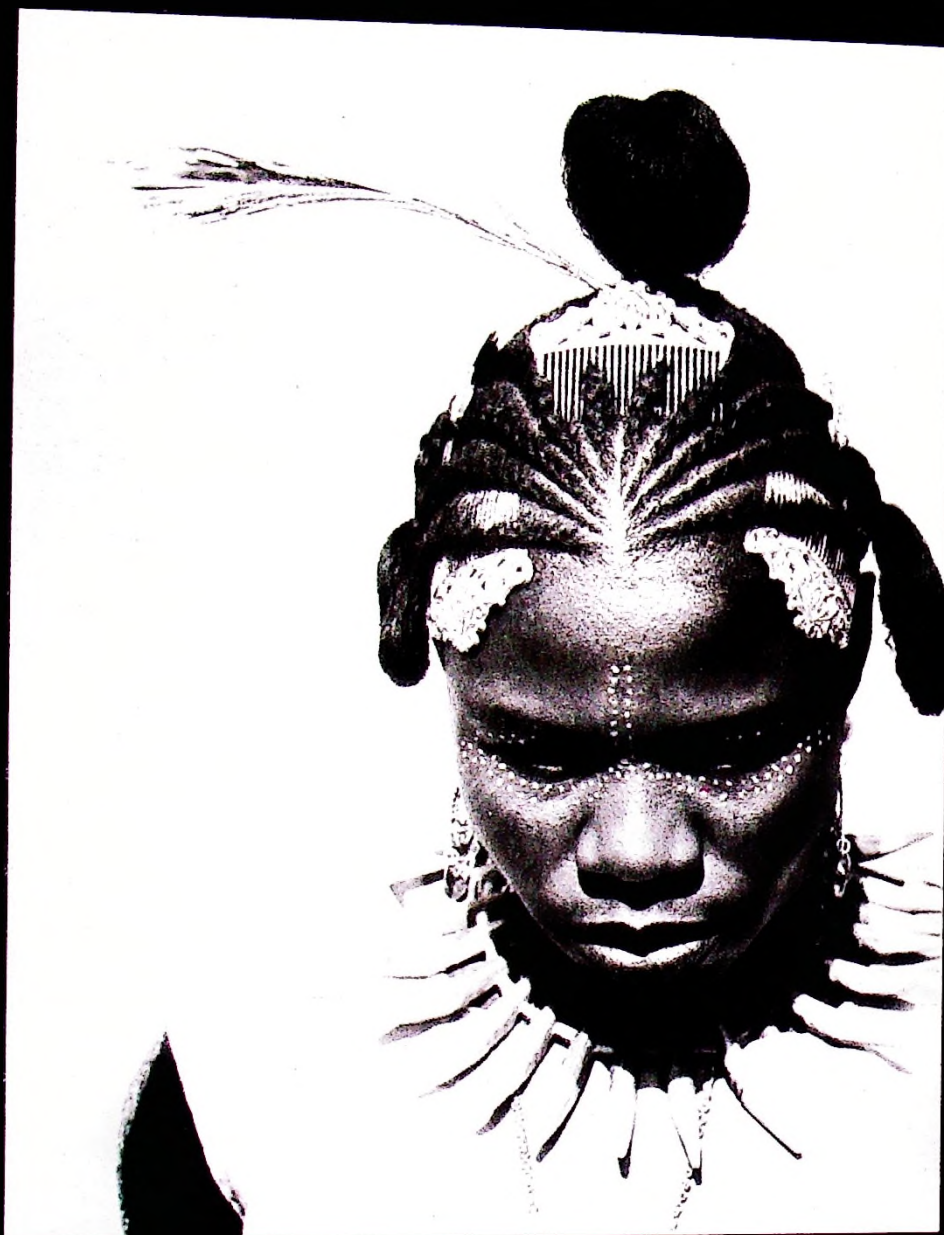
These hairstyles are reserved for the Benin Royalty.

No other woman is to wear these styles no matter how highly placed.

Coiffure traditionnelle réservée au x membres de la famille royale de Benin.

*Aucune autre femme ne peut porter ces coiffures, quel que soit son rang
Dans la société.*





"ETINE UTON EKU" HD678/74

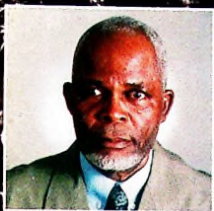
A decorated traditional hairstyle worn during the outing ceremony of a girl just out from the fattening room Cross River State. Note the special Combs and Feathers decorations.

Coiffure portée lors de la cérémonie de sortie de la chambre D'engraissement Etat de Cross River.

Depuis 1968, O.Ojiekere photographie les coiffures traditionnelles, extraordinaires, chefs d'œuvres d'habileté et de patience dont se parent les femmes qui ne cèdent pas à la mode des perruques. Ce travail de conservation, qui est aussi un hommage à la beauté féminine, a donné lieu à des expositions qui ont fait le tour du monde, et à un livre d'art, soutenu par la Fondation Cartier. C'est le retour au pays que célèbre cette exposition de clichés pour la première fois présentés à Lagos.



HD679/74



J.D. OKHAI OJEIKERE has created various lexicons of Nigerian culture through his documentary photographs, the most celebrated of which are his Hairstyle series.

His career as a photographer was launched when he bought a Brownie-D camera at the age of twenty.

In 1954 he began to work as a darkroom assistant to the Ministry of Information in Ibadan, and in 1961 he became a photographer for the first African television station.

He moved to Lagos to work for the advertising firm LINTAS, a position he held until 1975.

Thereafter he opened his own studio:
Foto Ojeikere.

Cover page

« **ONILE GOGORO OR AKABA** »
« **BATIMENT TRES HAUT OU ECHELLE.** »

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