

Abstract

This study focused on the transitions and manifestations of contemporary Ganda Catholic visual art in Buganda from 1879 to present, focusing on the visual art works of the Churches in Buganda. Africanisation in the Churches of Kampala Ecclesiastical Province found in Buganda has been underrepresented in theory as well as in the practice of Africanisation. Some clergy, laities and scholars are puzzled about the Africanisation happening in this art, evidenced by the contrasting results regarding the presumed extent to which Ganda Catholic art has been culturally conscious ranging from large extent, moderate extent to limited extent. The variations in these findings could possibly be due to a number of factors such as the framework of inculturation which the Catholic Church has applied from 1962 onwards to successfully integrate the local African culture into Church worship has had challenges in the visual arts and the dearth of pictorial art tradition in Buganda.

Using a multiple case study research approach, the study analysed a large corpus of visual artworks from Kampala Ecclesiastical province focusing on the transitions of this art, the changing manifestations of this art and the ways through which a contemporary artist can generate subjective visual narratives unmediated by the Church. It was discovered that Africanisation in terms of the visual arts in some churches is evident, majorly covering the theme of the Uganda martyrs. The conclusion implemented, in others it is the opposite.

This was attributed to the history of the Church whereby in those communities where the veneration of the Uganda martyrs has been deeply emphasized and followed, it has been much easier for Africanisation to take place probably because in the Uganda Martyrs, people see their own cultures and by so doing try to bring them into the art works being produced either intentionally or unintentionally, the personality of some Catholic ministers in charge of Churches within a given place and time. When the Catholic minister has interest and is conscious of the Vatican II teaching on Africanisation then Africanisation will occur and vice-versa and lastly, the Catholic ministers who are broad minded and not in “fear” of their superiors have also greatly led to the production of Ganda Catholic art.

of this Study was that while Africanisation in Churches of Buganda specifically with the visual arts has indeed happened, it has not been uniform. While in some areas it has greatly been