



Dan Artists

The Sculptors Tame, Si, Tompieme and Son Eberhard Fischer

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- A unique account on West-African art
- Enables an encounter with the artists' otherwise personalities
- Features previously unpublished and little known material
- An invaluable source for ethnologists and for dealers and collectors of African art

In 1960, Eberhard Fischer had the opportunity to accompany his father, the art ethnologist Hans Himmelheber, on a major expedition to West Africa. He was actually only meant to film the Dan mask carvers as they worked, as well as their festive performances. Yet the strong personalities of these sculptors impressed the young man deeply and he began to document their life stories, record their artistic work methods in detail, and also to collect their works. The biographies and many of the photographs shown in the book of four mask carvers from the Liberian hinterland are unique in the study of African art, as masks are carved in secret in many of these cultures. Until recently, the works were recognised by art ethnologists and collectors, but rarely the people who created them. The new book presents Fischer's essay for the first time in English, supplemented by additional images and an epilog. A DVD with the historic film recordings of the artists at work completes the book.

Eberhard Fischer is an art historian and cultural anthropologist specialising in West African art. For more than twenty years, he was director of the Museum Rietberg Zurich.

