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**The Renaissance
Ideological and Cultural Constructions of Grand Narratives**

This article considers the theoretical and canonical readings of cultural artistic practices of the Italian Renaissance as a starting point to revisit selected examples of relief sculpture and decorative arts from Ethiopia. Other examples that are referenced include ivory carvings from Benin - Southern Nigeria. Contemporary theorizing of the cultural construction of the African Renaissance informs the value laden trajectory of positioning Africa at the center of the Humanities. The significance of this ideological shift is part of the greater postcolonial project - the recovery of the postcolonial subject. Comparative and parallel histories with the Italian Renaissance are examined against examples illustrating an African aesthetic.