Baga
Guinea

Art of the BAGA
The permanent collection or in the Black Womanhood exhibition at the Davis Museum, Wellesley College

Headdress, 19th–20th century
Baga peoples; Guinea Wood; H. 46 1/2 in. (118.1 cm)

Baga is one of the smallest ethnic groups in Guinea. Since they are isolated from their inland neighbors and from foreign visitors by the sea and by the vast swamps that surround them, they have proved elusive to outsiders, so little was known about the functions and meanings of their art abroad. Yet the Baga have created a monumental artistic legacy that has excited students of African art and has had a significant impact on the twentieth century art of the West.
Map & Environmental shot
**Variations of Nimba Masks**

- a raffia skirt on the piece.
- 80" tall (6.67 feet or 203cm)
Variations of Nimba Masks

Variations of Nimba Masks
women
Nimba & modern art 1

- Merlyn Evans


Modern artists were especially attracted to the D’mba headdress for its exponential curves. Aquatint. H. 74.3cm. Collection Allen Davis, Alexandria.
Fred Wilson


The play upon leg forms the two disparate sources suggests differing views of power. Two Baga D’mba headdress, French-style chair, Bible. H. 189cm.
Nimba & modern art 3


The association of the Baga D’mba with fertility and creativity, from picasso to the present, is evident here.

Courtesy Leroi Coubagy, Accra, Ghana
Context shots
BIBLIOGRAPHY

- http://www.randafricanart.com/Baga_Nimba.html
- Art of the Baga: A Drama of Cultural Reinvention - Frederik Lamp.