AFRICAN ART IN PARIS!
Bingham Seminar 2012, Paris, France: Applying Classroom Knowledge to Real World Experience Made for one of the Best Educational Experiences Possible.
We saw lots of African art objects we had studied all semester in real life! Here are some examples.
We paid our homage to the tower 123 years after its being erected.
Experiencing the Center of Parisian culture at the Trocadero.
Enjoying an incredible view of the city while touring the architecturally complex and symbolic Institut du Monde Arabe on Rue des Fossés Saint Bernard in the 5th arrondissement.
At the top of L'INSTITUT DU MONDE ARABE
EXPERIENCING EGYPTIAN ART IN THE LOUVRE
Chapel of the tomb of Akhethotep
From late prehistoric period to the late Middle Kingdom (circa 3800 - 1710 BC)

It was incredible to have the chance to walk inside a portion of a real Egyptian tomb! The Louvre allowed us the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate art and artifacts from distant times and distant lands!

Great Sphinx of Tanis
c. 2600 BC
Hippopotamus figurine

From late prehistoric period to late Middle Kingdom (3800 - 1710 BC)
Filled with countless exhibits and features, the Louvre served as a unique and enriching experience for our journey.
Egyptian Art

The Egyptian exhibit at the Louvre. With a diverse collection of artifacts, the museum was an epicenter for learning our curriculum first-hand.
A very life-like Egyptian Piece from the Louvre
As another aspect of African art, these life-like sculptures created by the Egyptian shows the meticulous details of their artwork.
Who would have thought that the Louvre could be so big and the Mona Lisa so small?
Some of the class (Roo) likely didn’t have as much of a grasp on Egyptian Art as others (see photo)
Here is our fearless leader, professor Visona, showing off her extensive knowledge of African art objects in the art dealership district in Paris. The dealers were very impressed!

Authentic French art dealer smoking a cigarette… we are not so sure about the art piece’s authenticity!
Pere Lachaise

Getting to see the graves of some of the most famous figures in history.
My favorite spot in Paris was the Cimetière du Père-Lachaise, the largest cemetery in Paris. In addition to being incredibly beautiful and tranquil, the cemetery contains the tombs of several figures, including Jean-François Champollion, Eugène Delacroix, and Amedeo Modigliani, who played significant roles in the introduction of African art and culture to the French audience.
Jean-François Champollion, a scholar fascinated with Egyptology who, in 1822, published the first translation of the Rosetta Stone hieroglyphs.
Jean-François Champollion was a French classical scholar, philologist and orientalist, decipherer of the Egyptian hieroglyphs.

The grave site of the great translator of the Rosetta Stone
It wasn’t surprising that one of the most admired men of the class would have a remarkable grave suiting the polyglot.
Artist Eugène Delacroix, most famous for his masterpiece *Liberty Leading the People*, also traveled in North Africa and was well-known for his romanticized depictions of exotic subject matter.
Amedeo Modigliani was another artist heavily influenced by African art. After encountering numerous African art and cultural objects in museum collections, galleries, and friends’ homes, Modigliani frequently depicted heavily stylized figurative images reminiscent of African masks in his painting and sculpture.
My favorite part of my trip was experiencing both French and African cultures through FOOD! I felt it was my personally responsible for making sure we sampled as much many different types of food as possible. My favorites were Moroccan and Togolese! YUM!
Relaxing after a long day, listening to beautiful Africa-inspired music in a small venue in the outskirts of Paris.
We got to see a great African musician at this cool bohemian restaurant!
Meeting a Beautiful Musician from an African Concert
In one of our free days, we took an excursion to the outskirts of Paris. We were amazed as we stared at the gold plated palace and the ornate rooms inside.
Palace of Versailles!
It was hard to believe that this beautiful spot was the exact spot of the guillotine (We found out afterwards).
The once site of the French Revolution and Guillotine Replaced with the New Audi R8 at Arc De Triomphe
Breath Taking Paris Nights!

Sunset at the Louvre

Montmartre

Eiffel Tour
Most of us arrived as complete strangers and left educated in African art and as friends.