YORUBA II

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Yoruba culture, Nigeria, Ogun staff, mid-20th century. Iron.
Ogun (Nigeria/Benin/Cuba) & Ogum (Brazil)
Evocations of war, iron

Oshoosi (Nigeria/Benin/Cuba/Brazil) The Hunter

Obaluaiye (Nigeria/Benin), Omo-Olu (Brazil & Cuba) & Babalu Aye (Cuba)
Evocations of epidemic, smallpox
Nana Bukuu (Nigeria/Benin), Nana (Brazil) & Nana Buruku (Cuba)
Evocation of the mother of smallpox

Clockwise from lower left: Album cover for Desi Arnaz/ Babalu, 1940s. Devotee of Nana Bukuu holding her dance wand (ileesin), Republic of Benin, 1960s. Straw, beads, leather, chicken feet. Phyllis Galembo, Devotee of Omolu, wearing a straw cloak (palha da costa), Bahia, Brazil, 1980s. Pierre Verger, Devotee of Nana Buruku, Bahia, Brazil, 1950s. Participant in the Procession of Saint Lazarus (Babalu), December 16, El Rincon, Cuba, 2000s.
Yemoja (Nigeria/Benin), Yemanja (Brazil) & Yemaya (Cuba)
Evocation of the ocean
Oshun (Nigeria/Benin), Oxum (Brazil) & Ochun (Cuba)
Evocations of sweet water, love
Oya (Nigeria/Benin) & Oya Yansa/n (Brazil & Cuba)
Evocation of whirlwind

Two altars to Oxum (Oshun), (left) Bahia, Brazil, and (above) Recife, Brazil, 1980s.
Shango (Nigeria/Benin) Xango (Brazil), & Chango (Cuba) Evocations of thunder, lightning