The class will explore primary forms of visual art in central Africa, drawing particular on Kongo, Yoruba, and Ejagham cultures. The art to be covered can be collectively called Graphic Writing Systems, two- and three-dimensional modes of visual communication embedded with spiritual meaning. These will include writing known in central Africa as bidimbu, religious altars, Nkisi (“powerful healing figures”), and sung or chanted pieces known as Mambos.