



***The Bronze Men of Cameroon* (55' HD)**

A Documentary Film by Florence Ayisi



Synopsis

The Bronze Men of Cameroon is an intimate portrait of a community of bronze artisans in Foumban, the 'City of Arts'. Bronze casting is a valued cultural heritage of the Bamum People in the Western Region of Cameroon. This film presents bronze craftsmen at work, with rare insights into their expertise in producing unique bronze sculptures that are inscribed with symbolic narratives, collective memory and identity of the Bamum

The Bronze Men of Cameroon is also about the changing landscape of Bamum bronze casting and the threats to cultural continuity as global trends negatively impact on a treasured way of life. The bronze craftsmen are facing challenges in sustaining their livelihoods and safeguarding their unique cultural heritage that has formed and defined their identity over several generations. The raw materials for making bronze sculptures are scarce. The craftsmen are facing competition from Chinese migrants who buy land export large quantities of these materials to their country. The foundries are closing down, and this established traditional art practice is in decline. Some bronze artists are turning to farming and other trades. The artisans are fearful and uncertain "*whether in the future Bamum's bronze art could disappear*" and, with it, a tradition and their sense of belonging, livelihoods, history and heritage. Are these the last generation of bronze craftsmen in the Bamum Kingdom?

In French and Bamum with English subtitles

Film Festival Highlights: Official Selections, Screenings and Awards

1. Twin City Black Film Festival (TCBFF), Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA – Oct 21-24, 2020
2. Mosaic Film Festival of Arts and Culture – Bedford, Nova Scotia – Canada – Nov 20-22, 2020
3. Kwanzaa Film Festival - New York, USA – Dec. 26, 2020 – Jan. 1, 2021 – **'IMANI Feature Film Award'**
4. Watch-Africa Cymru, - Wales African Film Festival – Feb. 19th-28th Feb 2021
5. West African Film Festival, Houston, Texas, USA - February 1– 28, 2021 – **Winner, Grand Prize**
6. Pan African Film & Arts Festival (PAFF) Los Angeles, USA - February 14-28, 2021
7. Festival International du Cinéma Indépendant de Bafoussam (FICIB), Cameroun – Mar 24-27, 2021
8. RapidLion - The South African International Film Festival – April 5-11, 2021
9. Master of Art Film Festival, Sofia, Plovdiv and Varna, Bulgaria – April 8-29, 2021
10. Cameroon International Film Festival (CAMIFF) - April 19-24, 2021)
11. International Black & Diversity Film Festival (IBDFF), Toronto, June 2021 **Winner, Best International Documentary**
12. The African Film Festival (TAFF), Dallas, Texas, USA – June 1-6, 2021
13. Boden International Film Festival, Sweden – April 2021
14. Fine Arts Film Festival, Vernice, California, USA – June 8-14, 2021
15. Madrid International Film Festival, Spain – June 2021 – Nomination: **Best Cinematography in a Documentary**
16. Charlotte Black Film Festival (CBFF) USA – June 5-10, 2021
17. Luleå International Film Festival, Sweden - September 24-26, 2021



Website: <https://www.florenceayisi.com/the-bronze-men-of-cameroon>

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Filmography – Filmmaking in the Academy = Practice as Research (PaR)

1. **The Bronze Men of Cameroon** (2020, 55 minutes)
2. **Marie-Magdalene: A Female Chief** (2018, 66 minutes)
3. **Zanzibar Soccer Dreams** (Florence Ayisi & Catalin Brylla, 2016, 65 minutes)
4. **Transforming Lives: PNDP and Rural Development in Cameroon** (2014, 35 minutes)
5. **Handing Down Time - Cameroon** (2012, 55 minutes)
6. **Cameroonian Women in Motion** (2012, 10 minutes)
7. **Art of this Place: Women Artists in Cameroon** (2011, 40 minutes)
8. **Zanzibar Soccer Queens** (2007/2008, 87 & 52 minutes)
9. **Our World in Zanzibar** (2007, 35 minutes)
10. **My Mother: Isange** (2005, 7 minutes)
11. **Sisters in Law** (Florence Ayisi & Kim Longinotto, 2005, 104 minutes)

Relevant links:

Practice as Research (PaR): florenceayisi.com

REF 2014 Impact Case Study: <https://impact.ref.ac.uk/casestudies/CaseStudy.aspx?Id=42391>

Online Trailers:

- *Zanzibar Soccer Dreams* - <https://vimeo.com/164375459>
- *Marie-Madeleine: A Female Chief* - <https://vimeo.com/273540265>
- *The Bronze Men of Cameroon* - <https://www.florenceayisi.com/the-bronze-men-of-cameroon>

