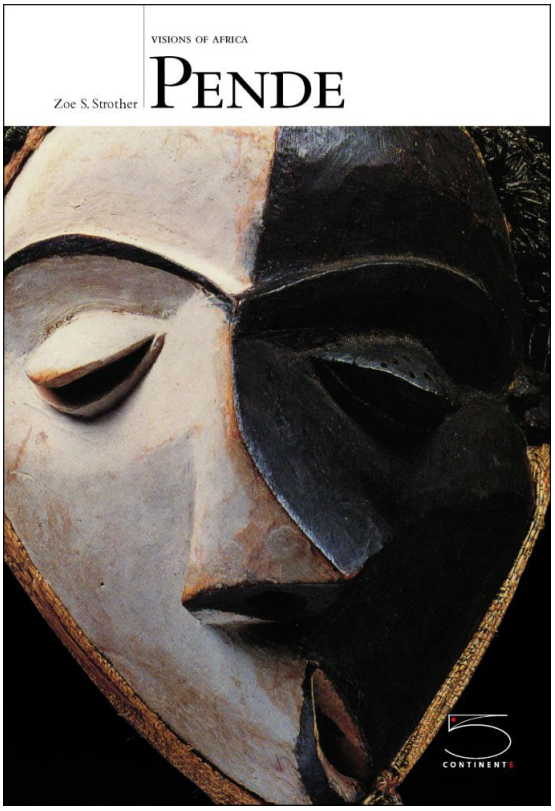
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Pende

Visions of Africa

Zoe S. Strother

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- Building on the extended fieldwork of numerous researchers since the 1950s, this text offers a unique window into the dynamic performance contexts of both masquerade and architecture in Central Africa

Although many societies in the Congo were once renowned for vibrant masquerades and architectural sculpture, these phenomena have only been studied as living traditions among a handful of peoples, most notably the Pende. Building on the extended fieldwork of numerous researchers since the 1950s, this text offers a unique window into the dynamic performance contexts of both masquerade and architecture in Central Africa. As much as possible, it privileges Pende voices as it seeks to understand the interrelationship between ritual practice and aesthetic form. Attentive to history, the text also records how these artistic practices have responded (sometimes unpredictably) to both colonial and post-colonial pressures. Lavish illustrations feature both iconic and hitherto unpublished masterworks, which have been selected to evoke the full range of Pende expression.

Zoe S. Strother is Associate Professor of African Art at Columbia University in New York. She studied History of Art at Yale University, where she earned a Ph.D. in 1992. Her research is based on thirty-two months of work in eastern Pende and central Pende. She has written extensively on Pende including *Inventing Masks: Agency and History in the Art of the Central Pende* which received the 'Arnold Rubin Outstanding Publication Award'.

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