Africa Moderne

HOW ARTIST MAN RAY BROUGHT AFRICAN STYLE TO EUROPE
The Phillips Collection shows how modernist artists of the '20s and '30s were inspired by African art

**Picturing a Continent**

The Phillips Collection's exhibition, "Man Ray: African Art and the Modernist Lens," which opened on Saturday at the Phillips Collection, is more than just images—they helped elevate African objects from artifacts to fine art. Led by photographer Man Ray, artists of the period looked at African objects such as masks and figures created in the 19th and 20th centuries and helped expose them to an international audience. The show is broken into sections, including the Harlem Renaissance and surrealism, to help illustrate the different perspectives of modernism.

The International Arts and Artists organized the show with independent scholars Wendy A. Grossman to curate it. Elia Smighall, associate curator at the...