

ABOUT HAITIAN METAL ART

Historic to Haiti is this unique form of artwork, where metal drums, once used to transport oil, are flattened and carved into beautiful pieces of art. Made by the local artisans of Croix-des-Bouquets, Haiti, this labor-intensive process creates cultural designs, every piece unique.



**Development
without
Dependency**

Metal drums, used for transporting oil or other products, are purchased near Haiti's main port, in the capital city of Port-au-Prince. They are brought to the workshops of metal artists in the neighboring town of Croix-des-Bouquets, which is at the center of the Haitian metalwork movement. When driving through Croix-des-Bouquets, one hears what seems to be the sound of rain--the hammers of artists bending and sculpting the metal drums into beautiful, unique pieces of art.



Using recycled 55-gallon oil drums; the artists first remove both round ends of the drum and place these inside the cylinder. They then fill the drums with dried banana or sugar cane leaves and set it on fire to burn off any leftover paint or residue. After the fire burns out and the drum has cooled, the artists cut the body of the drum from top to bottom. The artists then flatten the body of the drum by climbing inside it and using all their weight to open it up. It is then pounded down and sanded into a clean, flat "metal canvas" of approximately 3' x 6'. With chalk, a design is drawn onto the metal sheet. Using hammers, chisels, and other hand tools, a shape is cut and decorative patterns are pounded into the metal to create a unique and treasured piece of natural art. Finally, they are covered with a clear lacquer and left in the Haitian sun for about 24-48 hours until they are dry.



ROOTS OF DEVELOPMENT

OUR WORK

Our mission is to support and promote a community-driven approach to development—an approach that is based on strengthening local capacity in order to improve the quality of life in marginalized communities.



OUR IMPACT

Some of the most impactful projects we have supported include:

- Paving roads
- Improving access to clean water
- Installing solar-powered street lamps
- Addressing food insecurity
- Teaching young women to ride motorcycles
- Hosting community dialogue spaces for adults and youth
- Replanting mangrove forests
- Building a community library and medical clinic
- Construction of a wharf
- Distribution of teaching materials to parents
- Trainings and capacity building of local leaders and elected officials

All projects are initiated, led, and implemented by local communities and their leaders.

**LEARN MORE.
DONATE NOW.**
ROOTSOFDEVELOPMENT.ORG



ONLINE STORE



OUR WEBSITE

**YOUR LOCAL,
INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION.**



**Development
without
Dependency**