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Autore	Hackett Rosalind I. J
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Nota di contenuto	Contents; List of Illustrations; Foreword; Preface and Acknowledgements; Map of Africa; Introduction; CHAPTER 1 Creation, Creativity and Agency; CHAPTER 2 Envisioning and (Re)presenting the Spirit World; CHAPTER 3 Ethos, Cosmos and Hierarchy; CHAPTER 4 Revealing and Concealing: The Art of Initiation and Secret Societies; CHAPTER 5 The Aesthetic as Antidote and Transformer; CHAPTER 6 Shrines as Ritual and Aesthetic Space; CHAPTER 7 Allusion and Illusion: The Rituals and Symbols of Death and Beyond; Conclusion: Winds of Change; Principal Ethnic Groups Mentioned in the Text; Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	Africa's religious and artistic traditions constitute a primary example of its intellectual and cultural vitality. Artistic works play a vital role - especially where oral traditions dominate - in communicating ideas about the relationship between the human, spiritual and natural worlds. This work is a comparative study of Africa's visual and performing arts, concentrating on their geographical, material and gendered diversity, and focusing on the relation of these arts to African religion. The author combines ethnographic and art-historical methodology but does not assume any prior knowledge