The Pouncing Leopard
Every oba is praised as Ekpé-n’Owu, “leopard of the world,” and as Ekpelobo, “pouncing leopard who never misses his prey.”

Question
Can you find a pair of crocodiles in this drawing? The Edo believe that crocodiles patrol important seaports and rivers for Olokun, god of the sea.

The Oba’s Trunk-Hand
An elephant’s head with the trunk ending in a fist is a symbol of the oba’s ancestors. This fist represents the great strength of the Kingdom of Benin.

Ekpate
The ekpate are female spiritual guardians who accompany and protect the oba during public appearances.

Drawing of the Royal Altar Tusk.