

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
UNION GALLERY –PURDUE MEMORIAL UNION
WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA
KENTE: “CLOTH OF THE ASANTE KINGS EXHIBIT”
FEBRUARY 9 – MARCH 23, 1997

KENTE CLOTH, an example of West African narrow strip weaving, is produced in the villages of Wonoo and Bonwire in Asante, Ghana.

Traditionally woven by men only, the hand-woven/hand-sewn Kente strips seen in the Gallery are 4”-4 1/2” wide by 120” long for a man’s Picce while those for a woman’s set are 4”-4 1/2” wide by 72” long; a “man’s Picce” was usually made up of 22-24 strips in the olden days compared to 15-18 strips made on today’s looms. A woman’s set comprises one Picce of 13 strips and one of 11-12 strips for her skirt and top, respectively plus a five-strip head-wrap. Traditionally, *Kente Cloth* was worn “wrapped” around the body toga-style; contemporarily *Kente* is sewn into suits, cummerbund sets, belts and shawls.

- 1. While popularly called “FATHIA FATA NKRUMAH”** after the wife of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, the first President of Ghana, the original twi name for this pattern means “*Two Heads Are Better than One*” or “*No Man Governs Alone.*”

“BLACK FATHIA”- Man’s Picce or Wall Hanging or Bedspread –
18 Strips woven in Bonwire, Asante, Ghana in 1994 **95” X 120”**
TECHNIQUE: “Double Pic” (Faprenu) **THREADS: Rayon**

“BLUE FATHIA”- Shawl or Wall Hanging –
8 Strips woven in Wonoo, Asante, Ghana in 1993 **32” x 72”**
TECHNIQUE: “Double Pic” (Faprenu) **THREADS: Rayon**

- 2. “ADWINASA”** - This design translates from the twi to mean “*I’VE EXHAUSTED MY PATTERNS*”. It symbolizes Royalty, Elegance and superior craftsmanship.

Man’s Picce, Wall Hanging or Bedspread
24 Strips woven in Kumasi Area, Asante, Ghana in 1920. Originally, this pattern included 480 different designs when woven as a Man’s Picce. **96” X 120”**
TECHNIQUE: “Double Pic” (Faprenu) **THREADS: Silk & Cotton**

- 3. “AB USUA YE DOM”** -A Pattern which translates from the twi to mean “*Family Ties*” or “*Family Unity*”

Woven in Bonwire, Asante, Ghana circa 1920, this man’s wrapper can be used as a wall hanging. Here seen in green warp, also woven in black. **96” X 120”**
TECHNIQUE: “Single Pic” (Topreko) **THREADS: Silk**

- 4. “ABEREWA BEN”** *Translates from Twi to mean “A Clever Old Woman. “A woman of exceptional abilities who was a member of the Asene Clan and lived at the beginning of the 17th Century. Cloth designed to be worn by the Adontenhene: Leader of the Asante militia.*

Man’s Picce or Wall Hanging **96” X 120”**
24 Strips -Woven in the Kumasi Area, circa 1915
TECHNIQUE: ‘Regular Weave’ (Ahwepan) **THREADS: Silk & Cotton**

5. **“KYERE TWIE** -Title given to Asantehene in the 19th Century which *means* “*TO CATCH A LION.*” Reflects values of *Wealth, Royalty and Glory.*

Shawl, Wall Hanging or part of woman’s set, Wedding Textile.

14 Strips woven in Bonwire, Asante, Ghana in 1992 - 56” X 72”

12 Strips woven in Wonoo, Asante, Ghana in 1999 48” X 72”

A woman’s set varies in size between 25 and 30 strips used partly for the bodice, partly as a skirt and partly as a headwrap.

TECHNIQUE: “Single Pic” (Topreko) THREADS: Rayon with Gold Luxor

6. **“OBINKYE OBIKWANMU SI”** -Translates as “To Err is Human” -Literally means sooner or later one could stray into another person’s path. Reflects values of *Reconciliation, Tolerance, Sympathy, and Patience.*

Man’s Picce, Modern Queen Size Bedspread or Wall Hanging

24 Strips Woven in Asante, Ghana circa 1920. 96” X 120”

TECHNIQUE: “Single Pic” (Topreko) THREADS: Silk

7. **“SIKA FUTURO”** -Literally means “Gold Dust.” It symbolizes *Wealth, Royalty and Prosperity.* The use of intricately textured patterns in yellows, orange and red, replicate the visual characteristics of gold dust.

Man’s Picce or Wall Hanging - modern queen bedspread **85” X 120”**

TECHNIQUE: “Double Pic” (Faprenu) THREADS: Rayon

8. **“ATTA OFORI”** - *Named after the King of Akyem Abuakwa enstooled in 1913-1933.*

22 Strips woven in Kumasi, Asante, Ghana, circa 1910s 92” x 120”

This traditional man’s Picce makes a beautiful wall hanging.

TECHNIQUE: “Regular Weave” (Ahwepan) THREADS: Silk.

9. **“EMAADA”** - Literally means “it has not happened before,” it is without precedent. A symbol of *creative ingenuity and innovation.*

24 Strips woven in Kumasi area circa 1910 96” x 120”

TECHNIQUE: “Single Pic” (Topreko) THREADS: Silk

Art works of Twins Seven-Seven from OSOGBO, OSUN STATE, NIGERIA

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|----|---|---|
| 1. | King and His Spiritual Bird
Osogbo, 1988 | Acrylic Paint on Wood
24” X 24 1 / 2 “ |
| 2. | Monkey in the New Planet
(Fort Worth, 1988) | Acrylic Paint on Wood
24” X 24 1 / 2 “ |
| 3. | Great Hunter
(Osogbo, 1989) | Acrylic Paint on Wood
35 ¼ X 15 1/4 |
| 4. | Horses and Flying Fishes
(Osogbo, 1988) | Acrylic Paint on Wood
24” X 24 1 / 2 “ |
| 5. | Hunter and King of Beasts
(Fort Worth, 1988) | Acrylic Paint on Wood
24” X 24 1 / 2 “ |