

Silhouette of Africa

Colours and patterns of textiles and garments from
Sub-Saharan Africa

5th February until 15th May 2014



Silhouette of Africa

The vast continent of Africa is home to a wide range of cultural and ethnic groups, many of whom have their own styles of traditional textiles and garments. For thousands of years these have been used as an important means of indicating a person's social and economic status, and their role within a particular group. But these textiles also reflect ideas about colour, patterns and iconography, as well as religion and spirituality.

The aim of this exhibition is to give a feel for this diversity by focussing on various types of garments and textiles from various parts of sub-Saharan Africa. In doing so, emphasis is placed on types of fibres used for specific garments; on some specific dyeing techniques, and on some of the silhouettes created by the garments and outfits worn by both men and women. Overall, many changes in the use of local and imported textiles have taken place in the 20th and early 21st centuries, and these are reflected in the garments. As a result, there have been some dramatic changes in the fibres used, the dyeing techniques, and the silhouette of Africa and Africans.



**The exhibition is co-produced with Paul Spijker (*Toguna Art*)
a specialist in African textiles and artifacts.**



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