

# The Politics of Fabric and Fashion in Africa 1960-Today

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Fashion'  
V&A,  
July 2022-April 2023







*Africa Fashion, V&A, July 2022-April 2023, installation shot*





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Brown Fleming Ltd (merchant)  
Printed cloth, cotton  
Netherlands/Great Britain/  
Switzerland, designed 1909  
V&A: T.167-2004





Detail of *Bògòlanfi ni* wrapper,  
cotton, natural dye  
Mali, probably Bamana, c.1960  
V&A: CIRC.497–1968





Kuba cloth  
Fragment of embroidered  
raffia, made in Congo, 1900-  
1949  
V&A: T.134-1985





Nkosi Traditional Fabrics CC  
ANC Nelson Mandela  
commemorative cloth,  
printed cotton  
Akasia, South Africa, 1991  
V&A: T.2418-2021





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Shade Thomas Fahm *Africa Fashion*, V&A, July 2022-April 2023, installation shot





**MIXOLOGIST**

Novel and playful combinations of materials are a meaningful part of the African fashion scene. Mixing pattern, mixing texture, mixing print, designers create a new visual language for the future. For many creatives, the goal is to go beyond simply the aesthetic, intentionally fusing together different cultural references and traditions, whether translating a traditional headwrap into knitwear or morphing a Moroccan babouche into a sports shoe. These combinations often consciously embrace a pan-African view, celebrating the unity of the continent while recognizing the diversity of its people. They also speak to the globality of fashion, deliberately placing African fashions in the conversation of exchange.

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'Chasing Evil' collection, IAMISIGO,  
Autumn/Winter 2020  
V&A: T.2338:1 to 4-2021

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Bubu Ogisi, IAMISIGO, 'I Am Not Myself', the Tetley, 2022, photograph © Holly Cato





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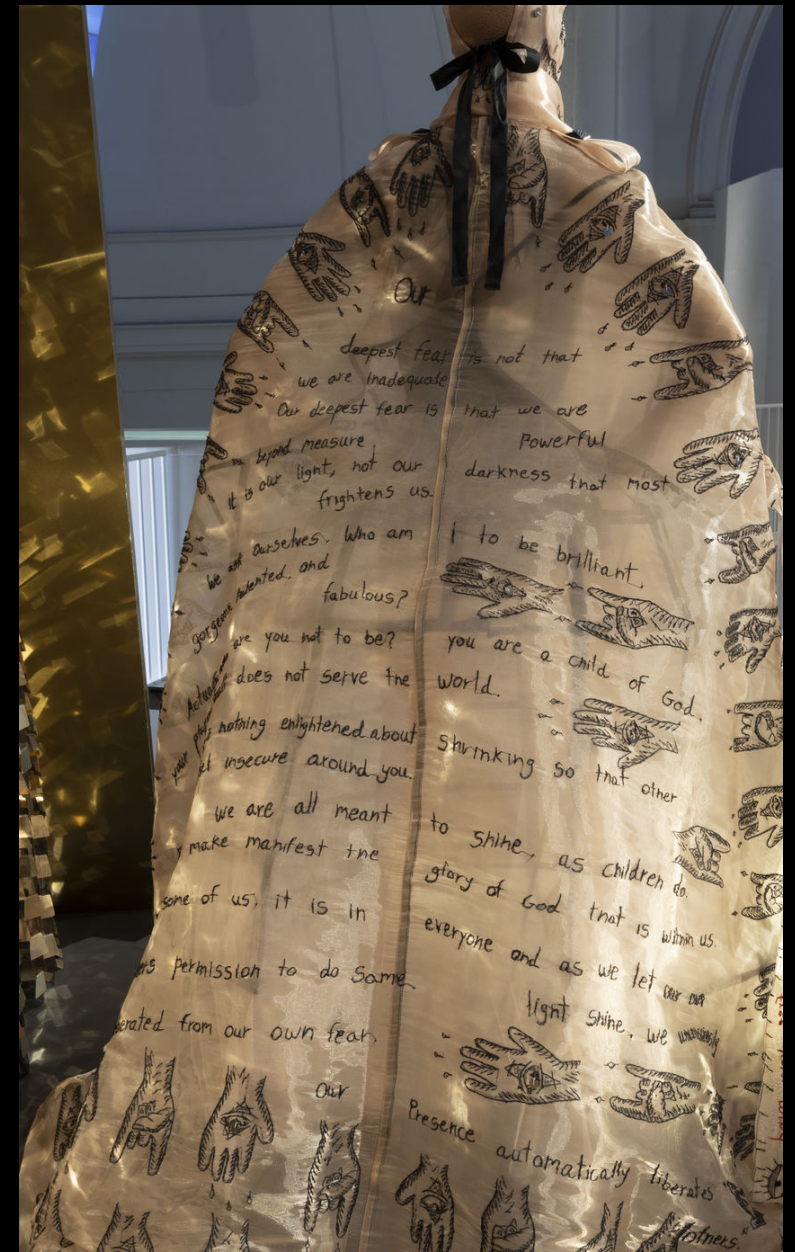




'Alchemy' collection, Thebe Magugu,  
Autumn/Winter 2021,

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*A Dialogue Between Cultures, MAISON ArtC, Africa Fashion, V&A, July 2022-April 2023, installation shot*