

WELCOME TO AFRICAN FASHION: MANY THREADS - ONE CLOTH



Think of a huge land mass at the centre of the world. The cradle of the human race – a land impossibly rich in natural resources, the site of ancient cultures, storied trade routes, stunning landscapes, and incomparable wildlife. That is the continent of Africa.

Blessed with a young population, Africa is experiencing transformative developments in many social and economic spheres. One of these is the evolution of a world-class fashion and textile industry, whose presence is increasingly felt on the global stage. Like Africa itself, it's couture is vibrant, bold, and fascinating.

The Cathedral Church of St. James welcomes you to a celebration of Africa's traditional and contemporary fashion in *African Fashion: Many Threads – One Cloth*. Using design and couture as

a point of entry, this exhibit will take a look at many other aspects of the continental mosaic – language, music, art, food, and economics. We thank you for joining us in our salute to this phenomenal continent as all eyes turn to Africa.

The Very Rev'd Peter Wall INTERIM DEAN AND PRIEST-IN-CHARGE, CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, TORONTO

EVOLUTION OF AN EXHIBITION





This initiative was intended as a celebration and indeed it is that. Our inspiration came from the 2022-23 *Africa Fashion* exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, U.K., which acknowledged the emergence of African fashion into global prominence.

This new recognition brought us face to face with the profound social and economic transitions taking place on that continent. We wanted to understand these rapid shifts, so we decided to mount not just an exhibit but a larger initiative with the goal of deepening interracial awareness through fashion and fabrics – and the cultural symbolism embedded in them.

Fashion and fabrics may not be seen by many Westerners as levers to lift people out of poverty, but they have been essential to African prosperity for thousands of years. Today, the clothing industry is second only to agriculture in many African economies.

Countless volunteers from across the city and beyond gave unstintingly of their time, skills, and materials to make *African Fashion* happen. If this exhibit communicates even a small part of Africa's complex story and the role of fashion and textiles in it, we will consider our task well done.

Nancy Mallett Yosola Sholagbade-Adeoye CO-CHAIRS, AFRICAN FASHION

SALUTE TO A CONTINENT



With this celebration of African diversity in fashion, fabric, and design. the Cathedral Church of St. James is outdoing its long and proud tradition of presenting exhibits of major cultural significance. *African Fashion: Many Threads – One Cloth* explores many facets of Africa's history and culture and gives us an opportunity through the lens of fabrics, fashion, jewellery, and other artistic forms to appreciate the rich and diverse aspects of this great continent.

The continent of Africa is often viewed by those who have not taken the time or had the opportunity to focus on it as lacking in cultural forms and contributions to fashion. This exhibit, along with its speakers and commentators, is a learning and teaching experience that dispels that misapprehension. Commendations are due to everyone involved in this wonderful event.

The Hon. Dr. Jean Augustine, P.C., C.M., O.Ont., C.B.E.

Grenada-born Dr. Augustine became the first African-Canadian woman to serve in the House of Commons and in the federal Cabinet, where she was Minister of State for Multiculturalism and the Status of Women under Prime Minister Jean Chrétien.



PROGRAMME

FRIDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 27, 2023 - GALA OPENING*

* PROGRAMME SUBJECT TO CHANGE

6:00 p.m. Doors Open

Daryl Williams, Rachel Walcott, and Trenyce Sweeney of the Pan Fantasy Steelband play.

6:30 p.m. Welcoming Remarks

Dean Peter Wall, Host

Yosola Sholagbade-Adeoye, MC and Co-Chair, African Fashion

"Expressing Cultural Identity through the Creative Process of Design"

Caron Phinney, Associate Professor, Toronto Metropolitan University Creative School

Fashion Shows

- Introduction of fashion show and George Brown student designers:
 Rosa Fracassa, Acting Chair, School of Fashion and Jewellery, George Brown College
- Oreoluwa Akinode, Blandine Eone, Damilola Adelowo, Oyinlola (Lola) Olusoga
- "Identity and Legitimacy of Fashion in Contemporary Africa"
 Wairimu Nduati, St. James Cathedral
- Introduction of fashion show by student designers from Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU)
 Caron Phinney, Assistant Professor, Fashion Program, TMU
 TMU Designers and models: Precious Ayolade, Prudence Mekongue Ekwele, Cali Greenidge,
 Savian Maxwell, Ashanti Morgan, Hannah Shope, Legin Knits

Closing Remarks

Nancy Mallett, Co-Chair, African Fashion

8:00 p.m. Reception

- View the exhibits. Talk informally with student designers. Watch as Yosola Sholagbade-Adeoye
 demonstrates the fine art of fashioning authentic African headdresses. Try your hand at playing
 a steel pan. Find Susan Ida Boucaud among the displays, where she will be telling stories from
 Africa.
- Enjoy a buffet of genuine African finger food plus Sierra Leonean non-alcoholic beer and South African wine.

9:45 p.m. Doors Close



SATURDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 28, 2023

9:00 a.m. Coffee

9:15 a.m. Welcome

Yosola Sholagbade-Adeoye, MC and Co-Chair, African Fashion

Performance: Let's Sing Egyptian Quartet

Led by Maged Zareef, the Let's Sing band performs on ancient instruments and sings in Arabic. Maged Zareef, singer, lute and oud player. Sally Ismail, singer, percussionist. Maher Shaker, guitar. Ibrahim Khalid, tabla

"The Diversity and Development of Africa's 2000 Languages"

Dr. Fatima Hamlaoui, University of Toronto, and Dr. Juvénal Ndayiragije, Associate Professor of Linguistics, University of Toronto Scarborough

"Africa and the History of Global Textile networks: Highlights from the Royal Ontario Museum's Fabric Collection"

Dr. Sarah Fee, Senior Curator, Global Fashions and Textiles, Royal Ontario Museum

"From Slavery in Jamaica to Freedom in Sierra Leone and Canada: A Family History"

Dunstan, Anthony, and Barbara Morgan

11:00 a.m. Break

11:20 a.m. Performance: Kobèna Aguaa-Harrison

Kobèna Aquaa-Harrison performs on ancient instruments from Ghana and Mali.

11:20 a.m. Panel Discussion with Speakers, Q&A

Moderated by David Grant, Associate Co-Chair

12:00 a.m. Lunch

Informal Canadian deli lunch, exhibits, storytellers, connecting with musicians

PROGRAMME

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 28, 2023

1:45 p.m. Musical Performance

Gambian percussionist Saikou Saho performs on the drums to open the afternoon session, which is devoted to the years following African independence.

Storytelling

Dr. Rita Cox

"Why an Eco-Friendly Manufacturing Industry Is Crucial to Africa's Future"

Tejal Dodhia, Owner and CEO, Thika Cloth Mills Ltd., Nairobi, Kenya

"How the Fashion Industry is Addressing Environmental Concerns in Africa"

Jayshree Khimasia, Fashion Designer, Chair, Friends of Textiles and Costumes at the ROM

3:15 p.m. Break

3:30 p.m. Storytelling

Kesha Christie

Dr. George Elliott Clarke, Canadian Poet Laureate

Presentation of a new poem especially composed for African Fashion: Many Threads - One Cloth

4:00 p.m. Closing Remarks





SUNDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 29, 2023*

* FREE TO THE PUBLIC

12:30 p.m. Welcoming Remarks

Dean Peter Wall, Host and MC, African Fashion

Coffee & Exhibits

Coffee in the Cathedral and exhibits on display in Snell Hall and the Library

Among the exhibits are two special altar cloths in the side aisles of the Cathedral. These coverings were commissioned by the Morgan family in memory of Sir Ernest Dunstan Morgan, a Sierra Leonean pharmaceutical entrepreneur and philanthropist, and Lady Monica Morgan. Hand-woven in the traditional Country Cloth, they were blessed by the Rev'd Pinkney Wilhelm in St. George's Cathedral in Freetown, Sierra Leone. This church was built by the British in 1817 as a place of worship for freed Blacks from the Americas.

Musical Performances

- Madagascar-born guitarist and composer Donné Roberts singing in Malagasy
- · Ghanaian Drum Dancers, led by Nana Kweku Duah
- Let's Sing Egyptian quartet, under direction of Maged Zareef, singing in Arabic and playing traditional Egyptian instruments
- The Palm Wine Band of Sierra Leone, featuring leader Theophilus "Million" Morrison
- The Royal African Cultural Troupe of Canada under the leadership of Somadina Muojeke
- · Kenyan guitarist Adam Solomon

3:30 p.m. Program Concludes

At the conclusion of our program, St. James Cathedral invites you to stay for the practice of the St. James Choir, followed by an Evensong Service at 4:30 p.m., which, in empathy with the exhibit, will feature the singing of African-centred spirituals.

OUR SPEAKERS, STORYTELLERS & MUSICIANS







KESHA CHRISTIE



DR. GEORGE ELLIOTT
CLARKE



DR. RITA COX



TEJAL DODHIA



NANA KWEKU DUAH



DR. SAF

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, PHOTOS APPEAR COURTESY OF PRESENTERS.

Susan Ida Boucaud

Susan can be heard telling stories at Toronto's 1001 Friday Nights of Storytelling and performs at and coproduces many storytelling events.

Kesha Christie

Kesha is a dynamic storyteller who connects people and cultures through African and Caribbean folktales. She presents a weekly podcast called *Walk Good*.

Dr. George Elliott Clarke

An internationally celebrated artist and Poet Laureate of Toronto and Canada, George hails from Nova Scotia and is a scholar of African-Canadian literature at the University of Toronto. PHOTO: HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Dr. Rita Cox

Rita is an award-winning master storyteller who has performed across North America and abroad. She teaches courses, leads workshops and seminars, and performs for adults and children.

Tejal Dodhia

Tejal is the owner and CEO of Thika Cloth Mills Ltd., a factory established in 1958 by her late father and his brothers in Nairobi, Kenya. After studying business administration in England, Tejal returned home in 1998 and devoted herself to leading this important economic enterprise, which employs 650 workers and serves 400 Kenyan customers.

Nana Kweku Duah

Nana Kweku Duah is a cofounder of Toronto's Joseph's Cultural Group, in which he is a performer and instructor in Ghanaian drum dancing. Drum rhythms were traditionally used for celebration and communication of important messages over distances.

Dr. Sarah Fee

Sarah is Senior Curator of Global Fashion and Textiles at the Royal Ontario Museum and teaches in the Art History Department of the University of Toronto. Sarah's primary research focuses on the textile arts of Madagascar.















H FEE ROSA FRACAS

DR. FATIMA HAMLAOUI

KOBÈNA AQUAA-HARRISON

JAYSHREE KHIMASIA

ANTHONY MORGAN

BARBARA MORGAN

Rosa Fracassa

Rosa is Acting Chair of the School of Fashion and Jewellery at George Brown College. She has master's degrees in Italian studies and drama and is working on a PhD dissertation in drama.

Dr. Fatima Hamlaoui

Of Algerian-French lineage, Fatima holds a PhD from Sorbonne University in Paris and is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of French at the University of Toronto. Her research focuses on Sub-Saharan African languages, particularly from the Bantu family.

Kobèna Aquaa-Harrison

Kobè, who is director of cultural development at Toronto's Abandze Embassy studio, is an award-winning Ghanaian-Bermudian performer, producer, composer, and storyteller. His Afrosonic "jollof" style fuses jazz, rock, reggae, and hip hop with their African ancestors.

PHOTO: ED HANLEY

Jayshree Khimasia

Of Indian ancestry, Jayshree was born and brought up in Nairobi, Kenya. A fashion designer by profession, she chairs the Friends of Textiles and Costumes at the ROM.

Anthony Morgan

Of Sierra Leonean descent, Anthony is the co-host of CBC television's *The Nature of Things* and an award-winning science communicator, PhD researcher, startup founder, and game designer. He has an unwavering commitment to bringing science to the public.

Barbara Morgan

Barbara is a health policy professional with a passion for social history and sharing African oral traditions. Following a lifelong interest in the history of the Sierra Leonean Krio (Creole) people of the Diaspora, she has spent several years uncovering her family genealogy and developing a detailed family tree.

OUR SPEAKERS, STORYTELLERS & MUSICIANS







THEOPHILUS "MILLION"
MORRISON



SOMADINA MUOJEKE



DR. JUVÉNAL



WAIRIMU NDUATI



CARON PHINNEY

Dunstan Morgan

Born in Freetown, Sierra Leone, Dunstan came to Canada as a foreign student. Tracing his ancestry back to 1792, Dunstan has a remarkable family history and a well-documented African heritage story to tell. After studying natural sciences at the University of Western Ontario, he switched to business at George Brown College.

Theophilus "Million" Morrison

Leader of the Palm Wine Band from Sierra Leone, Theophilus is a drummer as well as a guitar, trumpet, and keyboard player with several solo albums. His fellow band members include David Adesina During, Harold Pabs-Garnon, Harold Domingo, David Kofi Williams, and Solomon Olu-Cole.

Somadina Muojeke

Somadina is an art enthusiast who is passionate about promoting African cultures through storytelling, dance, fashion, poetry, film, wellness meditation, and history. He is a founding member of the Royal African Cultural Troupe of Canada based in Waterloo, Ontario. A computer engineer, Somadina works in the computer software and financial services industries.

Dr. Juvénal Ndayiragije

Dr. Juvénal Ndayiragije. Born in Burundi, East Africa, Juvénal is an Associate Professor of Linguistics in the Department of Languages at University of Toronto Scarborough. Cross-appointed to the Department of French at University of Toronto, he focuses his research on linguistic theory, African linguistics, and revitalization of endangered indigenous languages in Canada. PHOTO: UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO SCARBOROUGH

Wairimu Nduati

A parishioner at St. James Cathedral, Wairimu is of Kikuyu and Maasai lineage. A passionate advocate of African fashion, she is a Western University alumna, who works in downtown Toronto as a legal ethics and risk analyst.

Caron Phinney

Caron is an Assistant Professor and Undergraduate Director of the Fashion Program at Toronto Metropolitan University. She holds an MA in the history of decorative arts and design from Brighton University, U.K, and a bachelor of design degree from the (former) Ryerson School of Fashion.













DONNÉ ROBERTS

SAIKOU SAHO

YOSOLA SHOLAGBADE-ADEOYE

ADAM SOLOMON

DARYL WILLIAMS

MAGED ZAREEF

Donné Roberts

Donné Roberts is a Juno Award-winning guitarist and songwriter born in Madagascar and raised in Russia. He sings in Russian, French, English, and Malagasy, the mother tongue of his native island republic. A former backup singer for the Swedish group Ace of Base, he delivers a musical style that combines jazz and strong melodic elements and is currently working on a new album.

Saikou Saho

A cultural ambassador and percussionist from Gambia, Saikou has been teaching African drumming for more than 25 years. He facilitates drum-building programs in schools, prisons, and communities, making history and culture part of hands-on lessons in the drum beats of the Motherland.

Yosola Sholagbade-Adeoye

Co-Chair of the *African Fashion* exhibit and a longstanding member St. James Cathedral's congregation, Nigerian-born Yosola is an exponent of African fashion and an expert in tying exquisite African headpieces.

Adam Solomon

Adam is a Juno-award-winning master guitarist and composer originally from Kenya. He performs in English, Swahili, and Mijikenda, a Bantu language spoken by the Nine Tribes of the Kenyan coast. His signature sound combines traditional acoustic African blues and traditional coastal blues.

Daryl Williams

Born in Toronto of Antiguan heritage, Daryl has been a member of the Pan Fantasy Steelband since 2005 and plays at many events and festivals in and around Toronto. He performs for the exhibit with two fellow band members, Rachel Walcott and Trenyce Sweeney.

Maged Zareef

Maged is a lute and oud player and singer who arrived in Canada from Egypt in 2021. He is the founder of Let's Sing – a takht, or oriental band, in which members sing in Arabic and play the traditional instruments of oud, tabla, and qanun. Among others, his band includes Sally Ismail, Ibrahim Khaled, and Maher Shaker.





EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Nancy Mallett EXHIBIT CO-CHAIR

Yosola Sholagbade-Adeoye EXHIBIT CO-CHAIR

Susan Ida Boucaud Storytelling, Storyteller Organizer

Pauline Brown Exhibit design and set up, Fashion Show, Food Donations

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Honora Dines Coordinator of Volunteers

David Grant Associate Co-Chair of Exhibit, Panel Moderator
Ric Hillyer Finance, Coordinator Sunday Music
Deborah Karowo African Foods, Photo Model

Jayshree Khimasia Fashion Show, Exhibit Contributor, Presenter
Ed McDonough Photography and Publicity

Dunstan Morgan Exhibit Contributor, Presenter, African Food
Wairimu Nduati Exhibit Contributor, Presenter, Photo Model
Yvonne Odhomi Assistant, Exhibit Set-up, Photo Model
Eileen Smith Registration, Exhibit Contributor
Diana Swift Research, Communications





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Kathy Grant

CH ENSURES THE DOCUMENTATION AND PRESERVATION OF BLACK CANADIAN HISTORY

Bannard John EXHIBIT CONTRIBUTOR AND RECRUITER OF MUSICIANS FROM SIERRA LEONE

FOR THE SUNDAY MUSIC PROGRAM IN THE CATHEDRAL

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ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF FASHION DESIGN TECHNOLOGY AND DIVERSITY.

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Rosemary Sadlier AUTHOR AND SPEAKER WHOSE FAMILY ARRIVED IN CANADA IN 1783

AND PAST PRESIDENT OF THE ONTARIO BLACK HISTORY ASSOCIATION AND EXHIBIT CONTRIBUTOR

A VOLUNTEER EFFORT

This initiative was made possible by the generosity of many people working on a strictly volunteer basis. No organizer, designer, model, speaker, musician, storyteller, exhibit creator, or any other contributor is receiving any form of compensation for the giving of their time, talent, and experience. Except, of course, for the learning, understanding, connections, and friendships that have grown out of this process.

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Dr. Jean Augustine

Cathedral Clergy & Staff

- The Very Rev'd Peter Wall INTERIM DEAN AND PRIEST-IN-CHARGE, HOST OF THIS INITIATIVE
- The Rev'd Canon Dr. Stephen Fields SUB-DEAN AND VICAR
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- Sandra Mowat
- Joan Peters
- Don Solomon
- Kate Uchendu











OUR THANKS ARE ALSO EXTENDED TO THE MANY INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, INSTITUTIONS, AND COMPANIES THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS INITIATIVE INCLUDING...

- The Bishop Snell Foundation
- Dorothy Abbott
- Elizabeth Ball
- Bill Benson
- Ehab Bikhit
 DIRECTOR, EGYPTIAN
 MUSEUM, MISSISSAUGA
- COBS Bread, Morningside Crossing, Scarborough
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- Suzi de Lima
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- Susan Stevenson
- St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood Business Improvement Association
- St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association
- Textile Museum of Canada
- Thika Cloth Mills, Nairobi, Kenya
- The Very Rev'd Elkanah Thomas DEAN, ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE
- Lyamide Thomas MUSEUM OF LONDON, U.K.
- Annette Wentworth





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COVER PHOTO BY ED MCDONOUGH MODELS, LEFT TO RIGHT: YVONNE ODHOMI, WAIRIMU NDUATI, DEBORAH KAROWO

LAND ACKNOWLEGEMENT

This sacred land is the territory of several Indigenous Nations – the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishnaabe, with special recognition to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We also acknowledge that we are on the shores of Niigaani-gichigami/Lake Ontario. This territory is governed by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Treaty, an agreement between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Anishnaabe Confederacy to peaceably share and sustain the life of the Great Lakes. In the spirit of that Treaty we seek to place at the centre of our gatherings the values of respectful reciprocity, diversity, peace, responsibility, and mutual aid.

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