



Cover Artwork

Title: Kuba Design II

Artist: Muthoni Kimani

This design was adapted from the lush kuba pile rugs by retracing the thin lines around the actual motifs.

The design was prompted by the intricacy and complexity of most of the rugs that I saw. The design process felt like a marriage between tradition and technology, which in essence was what I was doing when I decided to do traditional designs using a computer rather than free drawing. The designs tended to look like the motherboard of a micro-computer. In essence then, although originally imitating overlapping snake and fish scales, the design ended up being an interplay of technology and tradition, challenging notions of the exotic.

Muthoni Kimani is a Kenyan graphic designer, digital textile artist, painter and gender activist in the cultural field. Kimani currently works as a project manager and lecturer for AMAC, a community arts college that works to promote gender equity through art in schools and colleges. She has studied at the AGI and the Michaelis Fine Art School at UCT, written various articles (the *Africancolours* series) on contemporary African art practice. She has worked in Cape Town for the District Six Museum and the Multi-purpose Learning Centre of the Robben Island Museum, where she has also worked as a digital textile designer. She is currently writing her PhD in gender and policy development in community art practice. Her current interests lie in the feminine imagery of African women's arts, specifically textiles, body art and pottery and their contemporaneity in the new digital age.

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