



Art and its histories

Ghana: The past and present of Adinkra

Narrator

The Ashanti people see Adinkra as an invention they took from other, vanquished people, and not as their own creation.

It's often said that Adinkra was introduced after the Ashanti victory over the 19th century Jaman king, Kofi Adinkra. That Adinkra is so recent is unlikely, as cloths datable to the early 19th century are evidence of Adinkra as a highly-developed art form.

Both Kente and Adinkra seem to draw on a long developing tradition of experimentation. Both sell locally. They often negotiate requirements with a local buyer.

Gabriel Kwaku Boatye

And he knows the meaning of the symbol, so he choose only four symbols. This is 'Jiname', 'without God you can't do anything'. And this is 'Akosombo', where we get our electricity. And this is 'Dowichiko'.