

# Israeli-Ugandan Art Academies Exchange Program - Textile Design

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Shenkar Makerere Exchange  
2020-2021 Report

## Art Academies Exchange Program between Makerere University & Shenkar College



From April 26th-May 3rd 2021, CoCuDi, in collaboration with the African Studies Gallery, partnered with the Textile Design Department at Shenkar College, and the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology at Makerere University, to host a workshop focusing on bark-cloth with students from both academies. The workshop was held over zoom due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Students worked in teams with students from both Shenkar and Makerere.

The workshop was part of the exchange program that allows exchange of technical and scholarly knowledge, while sensitizing people to unfamiliar culture in an equal and collaborative setting.

The workshop aimed to answer these overarching questions:

How can textiles and materials serve as a common ground to connect between people, countries and cultures? How can cultural exchange lead to original and innovative design?

## About Bark Cloth

Bark-cloth is a textile indigenous to and a speciality of Uganda. Throughout the week, the students explored the bark cloth traditions, techniques and its multitude of uses.

Bark-cloth is considered a cultural fabric. This everyday material in Uganda carries a lot of cultural and historical significance. Students enthusiastically inquired about the cultural significance of the materials, and in turn, gained insights into Ugandan heritage.

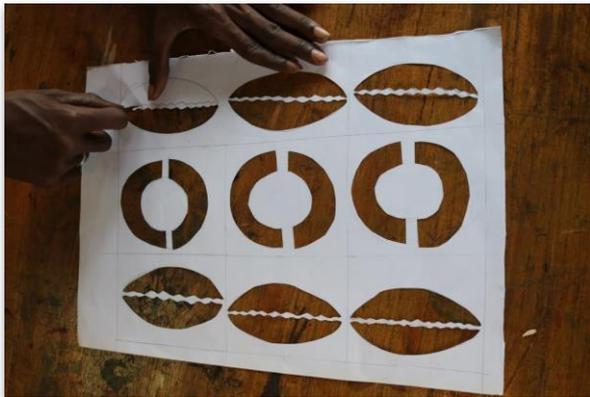
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the workshop was held remotely. Though this posed some communication challenges, the program was still a success. The fact that it was virtual made the workshop more accessible to students and allowed more participants that otherwise would have been able to join.



## About the workshop



Students from Shenkar and Makerere brought their own experiences working with textiles to their projects with the bark-cloth. The collaboration between Israeli students and Ugandan students resulted in both traditional pieces and also more innovative, unorthodox creations. Ultimately, the workshop served as a reminder of how working with materials and art inspires cross-cultural exchange. Students drew inspiration from both personal and socio-political narratives, and completed the workshop with a deeper appreciation for both foreign cultures and their own homes.



This project would not have been possible without the hard work of many people. From Makerere University, Dr. Venny Nakazibwe, Doreen Namatovu, Angella Babirye, Esther Ndagire Kavuma and Donald Nantagya. Hadass Himmelschein, Yuval Etzioni, and Shira Shoal from Shenkar College, Tamar Dekel from CoCuDi, and Idit Toledano from the African Studies Gallery.