



Man's trousers (Sokoto)

Date

ca. 1960s

Primary Maker

Artist not recorded

Medium

Cotton, indigo, alari (cassava root)

Description

These trousers match the tunic (A.2018.4.13). The trousers (sokoto) are crafted from aso oke strips featuring warp stripes and warp ikat patterns, matching the tunic's

design. The tunic is further adorned with machine-embroidered knot motifs, commonly known as pako (literally “chewing stick”). Both garments are lined with pale blue cotton for added structure and refinement. The threads are likely dyed with indigo and alari, a natural magenta dye derived from cassava root, which is used to create the ikat patterns. Ikat patterning appears in both men’s and women’s textiles but was traditionally reserved for ceremonial use. The magenta ikat, in particular, was a hallmark of women’s marriage cloth (oparo), customarily gifted by the groom’s family. This technique began to decline in popularity after the 1960s.

Dimensions

39 × 32 11/16 × 3/8 in. (99 × 83 × 1 cm)