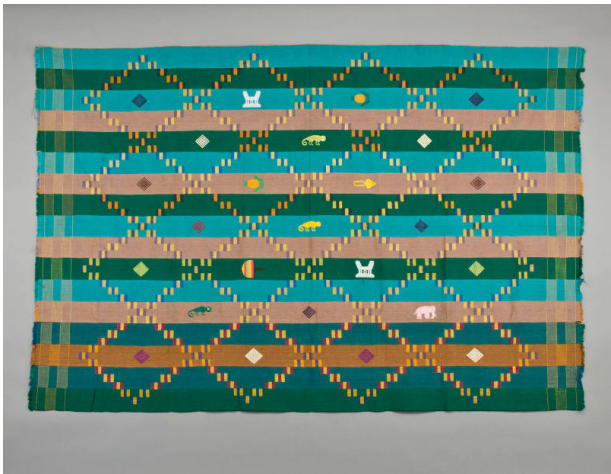




Men's ewe cloth

Date

2006

Primary Maker

Gilbert Ahiagble

Medium

Cotton

Description

Gilbert Ahiagble, better known by his nickname “Bobbo” (meaning “a big noise”), was born into a family of master Ewe Kente weavers in Agbozume, near the Togo border. As a young man, he founded his own weaving school, the Craft Institute of Kente Weaving, in the nearby town of Denu. The school evolved into a thriving workshop, and by the 1970s, Bobbo’s work had gained international recognition. He traveled extensively, conducting workshops and demonstrations, earning the title “Cultural Ambassador of Kente Cloth.” Bobbo was a frequent artist-in-residence and teacher at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African Art, where his legacy is well represented in their collections. His works are also held in prestigious institutions such as The British Museum and the Seattle Art Museum. Among Bobbo’s eleven sons, three have continued the family tradition as master weavers. Bobbo’s work is celebrated for its striking use of color, achieved by plying three or more threads in multicolored warps, combined with simple yet traditional inlay motifs. This man’s cloth exemplifies his artistry, comprising 17 narrow strips woven with supplementary weft designs. The patterns feature key and leaf motifs, geometric designs, and the agama (chameleon), symbolizing patience and adaptability. The cloth is made from polished cotton, locally manufactured in Ghana. Notably, some of Bobbo’s designs were misappropriated and reproduced by J.C. Penney as bedsheets, reflecting his influence but also the challenges of protecting artistic heritage.

Dimensions

66 15/16 × 101 9/16 × 1/16 in. (170 × 258 × 0.1 cm)