

Basic Detail Report



"Corona 2021 Kills" basket

Date

2021

Primary Maker

Zodwa Sibiyi

Medium

recycled telephone wire, steel wire

Description

Basket made of colored telephone wire. Design in center depicts figures of people with infected lungs, homes, people on gurneys, and helicopters. Outside reads "I have fear of being infected, wear mask, wash hands, corona 2021 kills." Zulu basketry, traditionally of grass and palm, took a resourceful turn in the 1960s with the availability of telephone wire, which led basket artists to explore color, geometry, form and figuration in new ways. Today, woven telephone-wire baskets are a highly popular and visible art form in South Africa. Artist Zodwa Sibiyi pictures a coronavirus at the center of this imbenge basket, surrounded by mask-wearing individuals, patients on gurneys, medical helicopters, and even abstract representations of the virus infecting airways. The woven words "I have fear of being infected" offer a personal appeal to viewers to mask up for community safety. This basket adds various subcollections within the MOIFA collection, including folk art from recycled materials, our vast collection of baskets across geographies, and a selection of works that show how international artists are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. "I am open to the idea of collaboration with my clients. I recently had a client who commissioned me to create a basket based on the coronavirus epidemic ... I then had the artistic freedom to play around. ... I started by weaving an image of the virus along the base, the humans and animals followed, and I ended up with the text in bold letters towards the lip or rim of the basket." —ZODWA SIBIYA

Dimensions

18 3/4 × 18 3/4 × 2 in. (47.6251 × 47.6251 × 5.08 cm)