

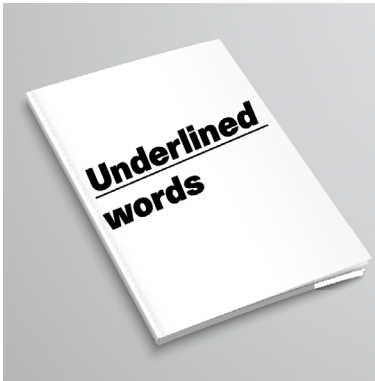
**Nottingham
Contemporary**

Kresiah Mukwazhi: *Kirawa*

Easy Read Guide



How to use this Guide



In this guide, hard to understand words are underlined. We explain what these words mean after they have been used.

The guide starts with an introduction about the exhibition.

After the introduction, there is a section of the guide telling you about the different themes in the exhibition.

You can use the contents page to find out which page of the guide information on these different themes is found at.

The contents page is on the next page and tells you what page number to turn to for each section.

The page numbers are written at the bottom of each page.

Contents

	Page
Introduction	4
Kresiah's artworks	5
Women in Zimbabwe	7
Kirawa	9
Materials	10
For More Information	12
Image Credits	13

Introduction



This exhibition is a display of artworks by an artist called Kresiah Mukwazhi.



Kresiah is an artist from Zimbabwe.



We are showing artworks by Kresiah at Nottingham Contemporary from 27 May to 3 September 2023.

Kresiah's Artworks



Kresiah thinks a lot about the female body when she makes her artworks.

Kresiah thinks about the female body in lots of ways:



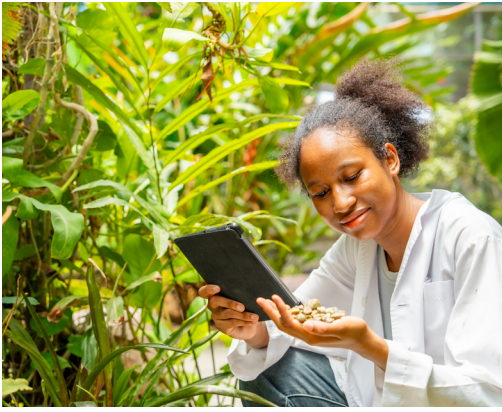
-As a body that may have been through difficult things.



-As a body that may have healed from difficult things. Healing is when we get better when we are sick or injured.



-As a body that may have resisted bad things. Resistance is when we say no to things we don't like or don't want.



-As a body that may have spiritual connections. This means feeling connected to something like religion, gods or nature.



Kresiah thinks about her artwork as activism. Activism is when we try to change something by showing how it is bad or how it could be better.



Kresiah has spoken to female sex workers in Harare, the city she is from. Sex workers are people who make money by having sex.



Kresiah has learned about difficult things the women have experienced. Kresiah has made artworks about these women.

Women in Zimbabwe



Kresiah's exhibition doesn't only show the bad things that happen to women in Zimbabwe.



The exhibition also shows good things, like the power women have to push back against bad things in patriarchal society. Patriarchal society is a place where men have more power than women. This includes things like men having better jobs than women.



Zimbabwe used to be a matriarchal society which means that women had more power than men. Women were seen as powerful and special.



Nearly 500 years ago, people from Portugal colonised Zimbabwe. This means they took over the country without the permission of the people who lived there.



When a place is colonised, the new people in charge make changes. When Portugal took over Zimbabwe, they brought a new religion to the country. This religion was Christianity.



When Christianity spread in Zimbabwe, the people stopped seeing women as special and powerful, and men took all of the power.

Kirawa



The title of the exhibition is Kirawa. This is a word which means a sacred outdoor space. Sacred means something is holy or connected to gods.



In Zimbabwe, kirawas are used as places to visit when you need to heal and pray.



Kirawas are marked out with stones, plants and flags.

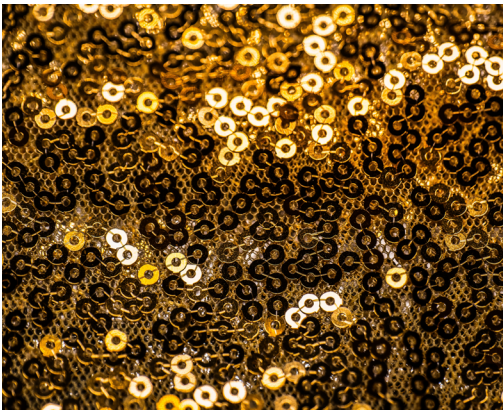


Sometimes there is a spirit medium at a kirawa who helps people to heal. A spirit medium is somebody who feels connected to people who have died.

Materials



Kresiah uses different fabrics to make her work.



The fabrics are often shiny or sparkly. Sometimes they are patterned with animal print. Some have sequins or lace.



These fabrics are similar to fabrics Kresiah has seen in night-clubs in Harare.

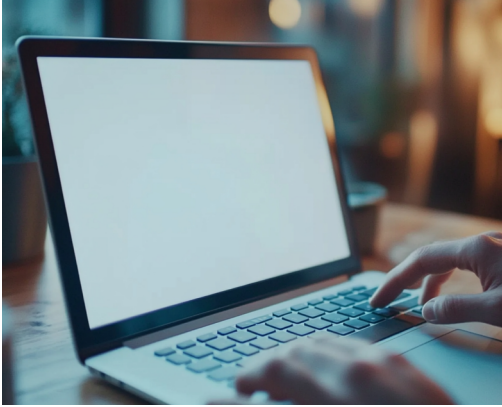


Kresiah buys the fabrics at second-hand shops and markets and lots of them have damage. Some are torn and stained.



Kresiah likes that the tears and stains show the fabrics have been used. She thinks the marks tell stories about the women who wore the fabrics.

For More Information



You can find out more about what we do by looking at our website here:

nottinghamcontemporary.org



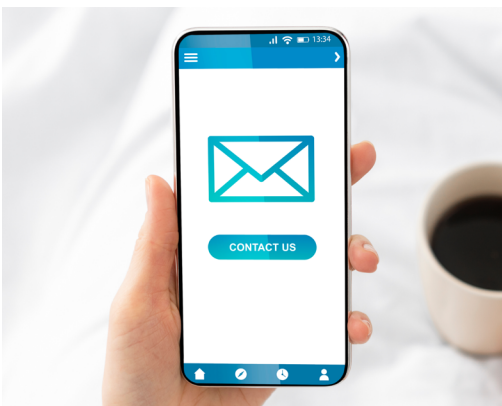
If you would like to help us show more artworks in the future, please think about giving us some money.

We suggest £5 as a good amount.



If you need more information please contact us by:

**Post : Nottingham Contemporary
Weekday Cross Nottingham
NG1 2GB**



Phone: 0115 948 9750

**Email:
info@nottinghamcontemporary.org**

Image Credits

Image credits tell us who took a photograph. The image credits for the photographs you have seen in this easy read guide are shown below.

We have to write these in the way they are written below because of special rules. You don't need to read this part of the guide unless you want to. This part of the guide doesn't tell you anything more about the artworks in the exhibition.

Page 1

1. Kresiah Mukwazhi, *Kirawa*, installation view at Nottingham Contemporary, 2024. Photo: Stuart Whipps

Page 2

1. 679576960 shutterstock.com

Page 4

1. Kresiah Mukwazhi, *Kirawa*, installation view at Nottingham Contemporary, 2024. Photo: Stuart Whipps

2. 2484735543 shutterstock.com

3. 2153741921 & 2157413623 shutterstock.com

Page 5

1. 2535496789 shutterstock.com

2. 1860935908 shutterstock.com

3. 2666453623 shutterstock.com

4. 2571510801 shutterstock.com

Page 6

1. 2649619373 shutterstock.com

2. 1513189949 shutterstock.com

3. 506614414 shutterstock.com

4. 2651266457 shutterstock.com

Page 7

1. 2651266457 shutterstock.com

2. 2346359867 shutterstock.com

3. 2337499709 shutterstock.com

4. 242290510 shutterstock.com

Page 8

1. 1237450426 shutterstock.com

2. 2511674797 shutterstock.com

Page 9

1. 2468467221 shutterstock.com

2. 2222349149 shutterstock.com

3. Kresiah Mukwazhi, *Kirawa*, installation view at Nottingham Contemporary, 2024. Photo: Stuart Whipps

4. 1566269065 shutterstock.com

Page 10

1. 2353564983 shutterstock.com

2. 2668187261 shutterstock.com

3. 2252244649 shutterstock.com

4. 2502979425 shutterstock.com

Page 11

1. 2479737341 shutterstock.com

Page 12

1. 2500892997 shutterstock.com

3. 1424495612 shutterstock.com

4. 1913129872 shutterstock.com