

Nottingham Contemporary

Kresiah Mukwazhi: *Kirawa*


**Easy
Read**



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Underlined
Words

In this Easy Read document, difficult words are underlined. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.

Introduction



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



Kresiah is an artist from Zimbabwe.

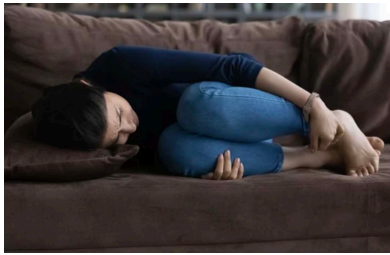


We are showing artworks by Kresiah at Nottingham Contemporary from 27 May to 3 September 2023.

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.



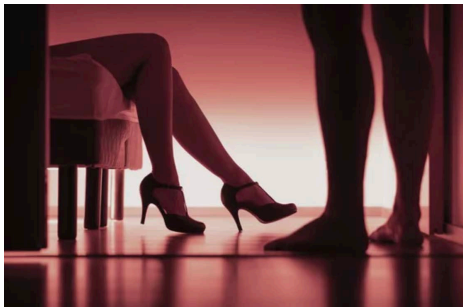
-As a body that may have resisted bad things. Resistance is when we say no to things we don't like or don't want.



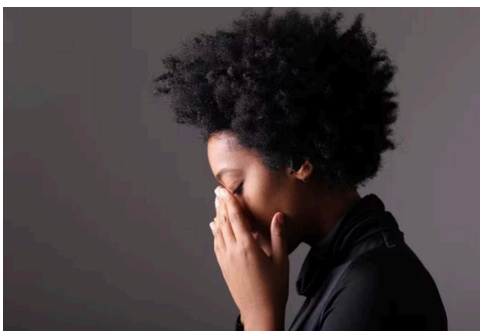
-As a body that may have spiritual connections. This means feeling connected to something like religion, gods or nature.



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.



The artworks look at the bad things Kresiah has seen and heard in Zimbabwe – things like people getting hurt and people not feeling safe at work.

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.

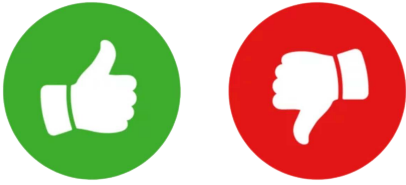


Kirawas are marked out with stones, plants and flags.



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.

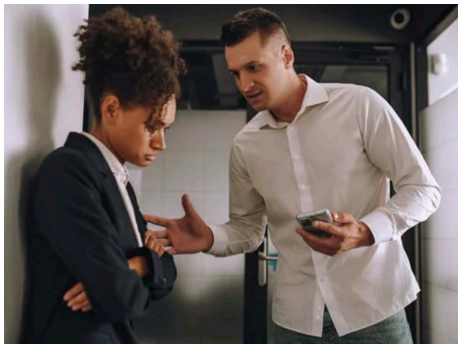
Women in Zimbabwe



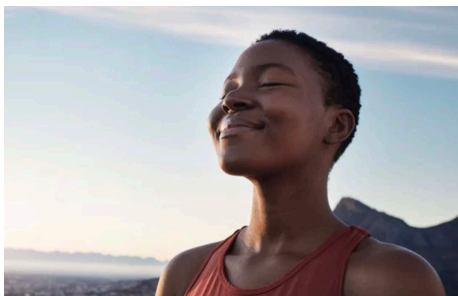
Kresiah's exhibition doesn't only show the bad things that happen to women in Zimbabwe.



The exhibition also shows good things, like the power women have to push back against bad things in patriarchal society.



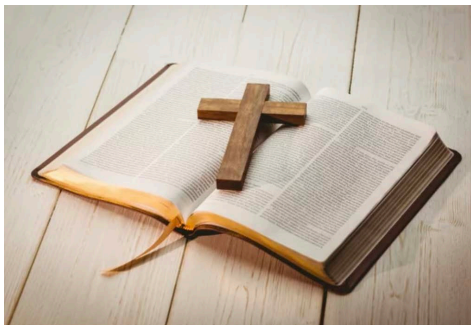
Patriarchal society is a place where men have more power than women. This includes things like men having better jobs than women.



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.

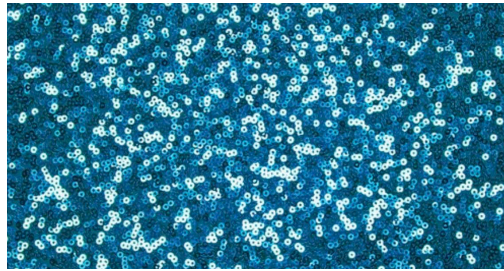


When Christianity spread in Zimbabwe, the people stopped seeing women as special and powerful, and men took all of the power.

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



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We suggest £3 as a good amount.



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Artwork Credits

Artwork credits tell us who made an artwork and when they made it. The artwork credits for the artworks you have seen in this easy read guide are shown below.



This is an artwork by Kresiah Mukwazhi. The title of the artwork is mukadzi muka uti dzi! II. This means woman, rise up and stand firm! II in English. The artwork was made in 2022. The artwork is made of acrylic paint on top of different fabrics.