

RUBIA HANDWORK

BOGOLAN



THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF BOGOLAN

In the Bambara language of Mali's largest ethnic group, bogolanfini can be broken into three parts: bogo means mud, lan means with and fini means cloth. The shorter "bogolan" usually refers to more modern mud cloths.

For centuries, mothers passed the skills and knowledge of bogolan to their daughters. Malian women drew the geometric motifs representing the "language" of bogolan, preserving the symbolic ideograms –and moral codes–for the next generation. Each of the symbols has a meaning and each cloth tells a story.



Rubia's Partners in Preserving Bogolan and its Tradition



Fatoumata Kanakoma, widowed mother of seven children, "Tanti Bogolan," started her association in 1994 when Djenne's tourist market for bogolan was booming. Tanti Bogolan's mother taught her to dye bogolan as her mother's mother had done before her. Forty women, ranging in age from 18 to 59, belong to her cooperative. Most of the artisans cannot read or write so they value their children's education. Since the disappearance of the tourist market, school fees are unaffordable and finding alternate markets for their bogolan is their most significant challenge.

Ndomo's mission is to teach ancient and sustainable techniques of dyeing cotton to unemployed and uneducated young men and women. In Segou where the workshop is located, extremists from Gulf nations have built new mosques where they are trying to recruit vulnerable youth to become violent jihadists. Ndomo offers a peaceful alternative: training and employment as textile artists. Ndomo defines itself as "more like an African family than an employer-employee relationship." The Ndomo artists are educated in traditional Malian values: work, responsibility, solidarity, and personal commitment.

For more information check out our website www.rubiahandwork.org and our Instagram @rubiahandwork

SYMBOL CHART

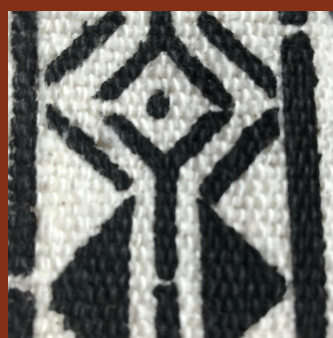


Intersection of Two People

Social interaction and being open to others

Path of Refusing to Pay Debt

The danger of borrowing money



Nile Lizard's Tongue

A person who does not tell the truth

Warrior's Belt

Courage



Key to a Lock

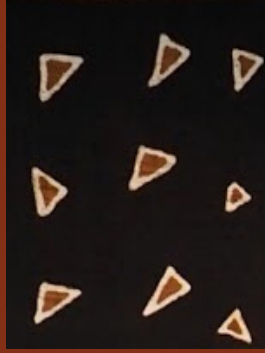
Every problem has a solution

Family Home

Surrounded by community



Little Stars



Broken Calabash Pieces

Divine insights and protection

Fertility

Birth



Mouse Teeth

Jealous man

Shelling Peanuts Together

Families share challenges



Dorsal Spine of a Fish(jegekololo)

Support

Cowry Shells

Wealth, independence from French Colonialism and Malian sovereignty



Crocodile



Lizard's Head with Protruding Eyes

Use of lizards in recipes believed to magically cure ailments or induce harm



Antelope's Sharp Antlers

The spirit who taught humans the basics of agriculture

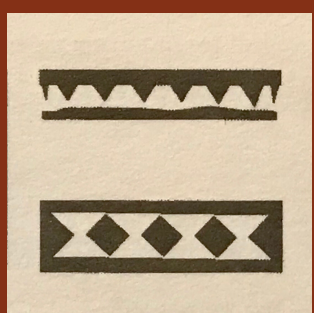
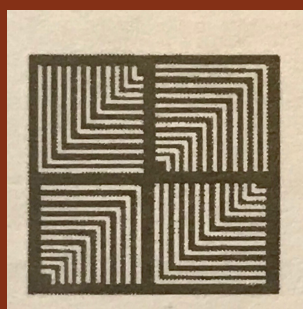


Flower Within a House

United Family

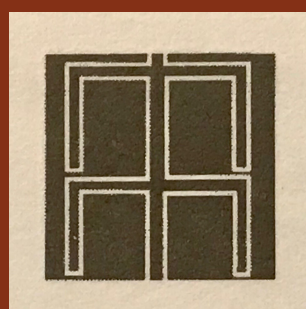
Gwanjo's Epic

Created in honor and remembrance of a famous bogolanfini artist and pays homage to all women who dye the cloth

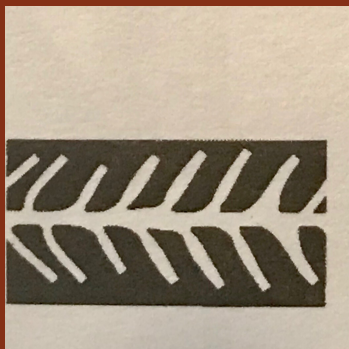


Jealous Husband's Teeth

Battle Drum

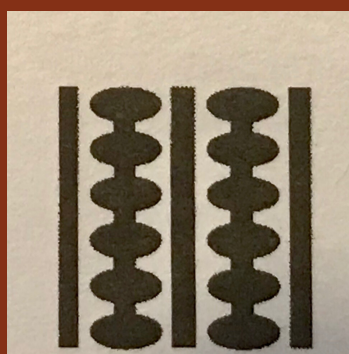


Brave Man's Back



Fish Bones

Flower



Scorpion's Tail

Calabash Flower

