

## Africa display - E1 Adire/Nancy Stanfield display captions

1. 284/1998/11 apron
2. 284/1998/15 tailored dress
3. 284/1998/7 prepared sample
4. 284/1998/37 indigo ball
5. 284/1998/36/2 & 284/1998/36/1 guinea corn seeds and assorted stones
6. 284/1998/38/1 copper sulphate lumps
7. 284/1998/40 suitcase

### 1. 284/1998/11

Apron

Purchased 1960s

Yoruba, Southwest Nigeria

Finished factory-woven cloth of imported cotton that was sold in an Ibadan market for 12 shillings (approx. £10 in 2018). The resist process requires cotton thread, red or white crochet cotton, pebbles, guinea corn seeds (sorghum), a razor blade and water.

### 2. 284/1998/15

Tailored dress

Purchased 1960s

Yoruba, Lagos, Southwest Nigeria

This dress pattern was made using an Adire Èlẹkọ stencil. Since national independence in 1960, Adire designs have featured in European-styled garments and in the latest fashions.

### 3. 284/1998/7

Prepared sample

Purchased 1960s

Yoruba, Southwest Nigeria

*"The fabric is prepared for the dye. The pattern is made by folding parts of the fabric & stitching the folds, and by wrapping raffia tightly round sections of the cloth. Sometimes thread is used instead of raffia."* Nancy Stanfield, 1971

### 4. 284/1998/37

Indigo ball

Purchased 1960s

## Southwest Nigeria

The leaves of the indigo vine (*Philenoptera cyanensis*) are pounded, moulded into dye balls and sun-dried. To extract the indigo they are left to ferment for about 4 days.

5. 284/1998/36/2 & 284/1998/36/1

Guinea corn seeds and assorted stones

Acquired 1960s

Southwest Nigeria

Guinea corn (*Sorghum sp.*) is an important food crop, but the seeds are useful in the tie-dye process. With thread the seeds and stones are tied into the cloth with a special knot for easy removal after dyeing. This results in a pattern of circles.

6. 284/1998/38/1

Copper sulphate lumps

Acquired 1960s

Southwest Nigeria

Adire patterns are created using starch as a resisting agent. Common ingredients in the making of starch are cassava flour and water, which are stirred, boiled then strained to remove lumps. A small lump of copper sulphate, alum or sulphur is added to the smooth mix to help keep the white starch fresh.

7. 284/1998/40

Suitcase

Mid-20th century

Provenance unknown

This is Nancy Stanfield's suitcase. Note the Elder Dempster Lines West Africa Services labels. The Elder Dempster company was based in the historic port of Liverpool. From the 19th century, it provided a major shipping line to serve West Africa. Stanfield sailed to Lagos on their ship *Calabar*.