

**African Textile  
Workshop in Ghana**  
with Cross Cultural Collaborative, Inc.  
**August 2-15, 2008**

Once upon a time, in Ewe Villages in Africa, women would save a small piece of each cloth that they bought and add it to a patchwork to keep as a record of how much cloth they could afford. For those with a lot of pieces, it was a very public status symbol and sign of wealth.

African cloth has always had symbolic meaning. Men and women who were taken from Africa to the diaspora had memories of cloth designs and the meanings they carried. According to many scholars, African American story quilts retain traces of African fabric techniques of the past.

Cross Cultural Collaborative, Inc. is sponsoring a workshop in Ghana, West Africa, that will explore universal connections and ask the question: "What happens when two cultures re-connect?"

The workshop will open with a seminar covering the memory retentions and symbolic connections between cultures. With this dynamic introduction, the 2-week workshop will offer textile techniques in their own context. Not only will Asafo flag patterns be addressed, but members of an Asafo company will perform. Indigenous Adinkra stampers and carvers will come to the workshop from Ntonso, the center of Adinkra production. There will also be demonstrations of tie and dye, batik, and other African fabric techniques, plus, an introduction to Kente weaving.



Many traditional approaches to cloth patterning are being lost. Young artisans want to be modern and don't want to do the tedious work required to be authentic. There is a saying in Africa, that each time an elder dies a library is lost-and each time a traditional artisan dies a technique is lost.

It is possible to be modern and to retain tradition, and artist Gasali Adeyemo has succeeded in a most dramatic way. We have invited this Nigerian artist to come to Ghana to teach Adire. He uses cassava paste and indigo to create beautiful quilts and other modern interpretations of this vanishing skill.

The workshop will also include a lecture by Mr. Baba Muhama, an authority on African cloth and antiquities. He has consulted on many books including *African Majesty*. Mr. Muhama is a collector of rare, old Kente cloth which he will exhibit for us. This exhibit will be complemented by a visit to the National Museum of Art in Accra.

Participating in this workshop is a unique opportunity to live and work with artists from all over the world.

Cross Cultural Collaborative, Inc. is an educational non-profit that encourages creativity between cultures, and indigenous artisans to continue the work of their ancestors and bring outsiders to work with Ghanaians to keep the culture intact.

Workshops and accommodations are at Aba House, a building based on indigenous African architecture. Located next to the ocean in a suburb of Accra, Aba House is in a beautiful setting that will surely inspire you. Rooms are double occupancy with attached private baths. A local cook prepares meals.



**African Textile  
Workshop in Ghana  
Application Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about our workshop?

\_\_\_\_\_

**I will arrange my own airfare.** Plan on arriving in Accra on Aug. 2nd and departing Aug. 15th. Please send us your travel details when they are available.

**I would like you to arrange my airfare.** We can only help with flights originating in the USA. We will contact you to discuss details.

**I would like to make a donation toward a Ghanaian artist's participation in a workshop in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Application and \$1200 deposit due by April 1, 2008. Balance of \$1200 due on or before June 1, 2008.**

Please detach this form and send with check or money order\* to:

**Cross Cultural Collaborative, Inc.  
45 Auburn St.  
Brookline, MA 02446 USA**

Or email the information above to:  
**aba@culturalcollaborative.org**

**We will contact you soon to confirm the arrival of your application. Thank you for your interest!**

**More information at:  
<http://www.culturalcollaborative.org>**

\*PAYPAL payment also available, please contact us for details.