
Cover Artwork

Title: Transcendence III

Artist: Muthoni Kimani

The turtle symbolizes woman, depicted here in a position of transcendence and spatial transition in relation to the 'spider web' which symbolizes entrapment. The multiple boxes represent the various constructed identities that women are forced to inhabit in order to fulfill the ascribed role of 'good woman'. The turtle has the wisdom to sneak up from beneath the web to transcend these exaggerated social constructions of her identity. This shows her ability to negotiate and claim her own space in society as a person with equal rights to any other person in the community. The turtle's shell marks the individual space that each person occupies in her own right, regardless of social constructions.

Muthoni Kimani is a Kenyan graphic designer, digital textile artist, painter and gender activist in the cultural field. Kimani currently works as a project manager and lecturer for AMAC, a community arts college that works to promote gender equity through art in schools and colleges. She has studied at the AGI and the Michaelis Fine Art School at UCT, written various articles (the *Africancolours series*) on contemporary African art practice. She has worked in Cape Town for the District Six Museum and the Multi-purpose Learning Centre of the Robben Island Museum, where she has also worked as a digital textile designer. She is currently writing her PhD in gender and policy development in community art practice. Her current interests lie in the feminine imagery of African women's arts, specifically textiles, body art and pottery and their contemporaneity in the new digital age.

Email: muthoni53@yahoo.co.uk.