

LUCY ABOAGYE

Mistress of Elmina

Mistress of Elmina Collection was inspired by stories of the women of Elmina Castle. Elmina castle was built in 1482 by the Portuguese in Ghana, West Africa, as a trading post, and a port to transport people as the Trans Atlantic slave trade began.

Many women were brought to Elmina Castle with the intention of being sold as slaves and sent to the New World (Modern Day USA) however as their beauty caught the attention of those in authority, they were never sent away, but rather kept at the castle and became the mistresses of their oppressors.

The garments speak of significant events and testimonies of these women. Being kept as mistresses, their positions were coveted by some, however the brutality of their living conditions were hidden behind the supposed importance of their positions.

Symbols such as ropes used to restrain the women, disguised as brocade patterns. Stained garments disguised as golden fabrics to resemble the garments of those with notoriety. Or the countless exposed seams on the garment, and patchworks like clothes due to poverty, sewn together to appear grand. Cotton and Silk are used to distinguish the poverty and the wealth of the rulers and slaves, and how their two worlds began to intertwine.

Mistress of Elmina speaks to the seemingly beautiful aspects of our society and every day lives, that have been disguised to seem beautiful, in order to move our attention from the underlying issues. A reminder to look a little closer, and go a little deeper.

From left to right:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Lucy Aboagye
<i>Washed by the River</i> , 2019
Size 8-10
\$1,200 | 5 Lucy Aboagye
<i>Graced with Gold</i> , 2019
Size 8
\$2,800 |
| 2 Lucy Aboagye
<i>Beautifully Restrained</i> , 2019
Size 8
\$3,800 | 6 Lucy Aboagye
<i>Elmina's Queen</i> , 2019
Size 8
\$5,400 |
| 3 Lucy Aboagye
<i>Intertwined</i> , 2019
Size 8
\$2,900 | 7 Lucy Aboagye
<i>Raw soon to be Refined</i> , 2019
Size 8
\$2,500 |
| 4 Lucy Aboagye
<i>Mistress of Elmina</i> , 2019
Size 8
\$4,200 | |