

THE VESSAL OF IDENTITY

the vassal of identity was born from a desire to merge Rwanda and africa sacred symbols into one wearable statement. The canoe (Ubwato) speaks of movement, resilience, and connection across generations. The Agaseke basket, nested within it, represents peace, femininity, and sacred tradition.

Through leather craftsmanship, I wanted to preserve the spiritual essence of these forms while giving them a new life in fashion-functional,

DESIGN INSPIRATION

This handbag The Vessel of Identity merges the graceful curves of the Ubwato with the textural detail of Agaseke basket weaving, creating a product that is both elegant and powerful. It carries the story of Africa's past, present and future.

It is not just an accessory it is:.

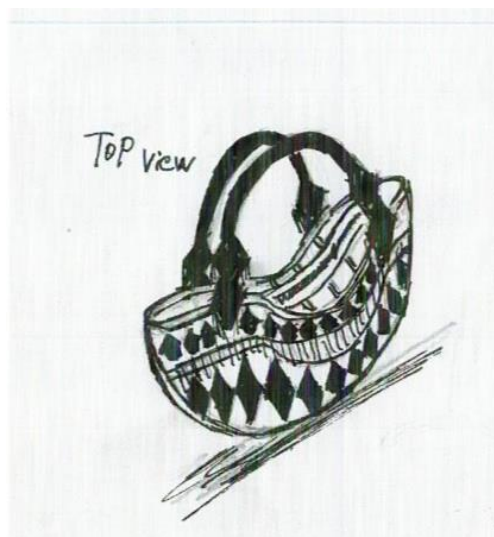
- A symbol of African rising, crossing into new opportunities.
- A tribute to women's hands whose crafts have healed and sustained.
- A statement of unity the woven base echoing how many threads make strength.
- A vision for Africa future based on self-reliant, resilient, and stylish ready for the world stage.

Traditional boat building: The Ubwato has transported families, food, messages of peace, and goods across rivers and lakes for generations. It is more than a physical tool it is a symbol of journey and survival, how our ancestors moved from village to village, building connection, spreading love, and surviving hardship.

It also symbolizes how Rwanda moved from tragedy to hope how we crossed from a time of division to a future of unity and development.



The curves of the canoe are reimagined in leather, shaped to carry today's identity with the soul of tradition





Agaseke basket : The Agaseke is not just a basket it is a sacred symbol of Rwandan womanhood, healing, and peace.

- After the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, Agaseke baskets were used in reconciliation programs, symbolizing the willingness to forgive, support, and rebuild as a nation.

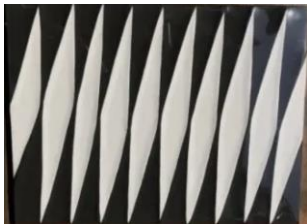
- They are given as gifts during supporting someone financially or emotionally during life events and mutual encouragement and support, especially during weddings, births, and hardships.

- Women wove them together, often from different sides of the conflict, as a way to rebuild community through craft and care.



Patterns :

The Backbone



“Umugongo” means the backbone in Kinyarwanda. It represents what carries and supports us our strength, structure, and dignity.

- The handbag’s leather base and woven structure symbolize the Umugongo the strong foundation on which Rwanda and Africa stands today.

- Just like a body cannot stand without a backbone, a country cannot rise without its people, culture, and values holding it up.



- This also honors African women as the backbone of the nation, the mothers, crafters, healers, and peacebuilders.

This bag is our backbone holding our culture, carrying our journey, and supporting our identity.

The Sail



In traditional boats, the sail is what captures the wind and moves the boat forward. It represents:

- Direction – guiding the journey
- Hope & Movement – pushing forward even when it's hard
- Vision & Freedom – catching the wind of change

Materials

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|------------------|--------------------|--------|
| -genuine leather | -polyester threads | -beads |
| -Metar zipper | -soft lining | |