Welcome! This guide has been created for you to read as you walk through the exhibition. There are lots of different things to notice in a gallery. Why not take a few minutes to write down your thoughts before you look at the show...

What do you expect to see?

Freedom and Change, 1984

Look closely at this painting. What is it made from?

What do you expect to see?

Everybody Is 1999/2000

Can you spot the painting from the front cover of your activity guide? It’s somewhere in this room!

What do you expect to see?

Swallow Hard: The Lancaster Dinner Service, 2007

Lubaina has bought over 100 plates, jugs and dishes from the shops and markets of Lancaster and painted different pictures and patterns on top.

Lubaina is telling a story on these dishes, weaving in and out of the original patterns.

What story do you think she is trying to tell?

Zanzibar - Sea: Wave Goodbye Say Hello, 1999

Lubaina was born in Zanzibar in 1954. Zanzibar is an island off the coast of East Africa. Lubaina lived there for the first four months of her life in a house by the beach. Lubaina arrived in England on Christmas Eve in 1954 at Blackpool airport with her mother.

This painting is filled with the memories and sounds of the island.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT KANGAS OVER THE PAGE!

Shelter in the Shade of Deep Friendship, 2011

Lubaina calls these paintings Kangas, which are made and worn by women in East Africa.

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About the Artist

Lubaina Himid is an artist who creates paintings to explore hidden histories. Her paintings uncover messages of fabrics in vivid colours and patterns inspired by different journeys and a sense of identity and family.

About the Kanga

The Kanga is a rectangular piece of cotton cloth with a border all around it. It is printed with bright colours and bold designs and is as long as the stretch of your open arms and wide enough to cover you from neck to knee.

Kangas originally come from East Africa. Fabric is cut into two separate pieces and then worn as a pair - called a ‘Doti’.

From the choice of material to the design and pattern, we can tell a lot about the time that they were made and the people who made them.

The Kanga is protective and decorative, but it is also all about sending a message. It might be a message of love and reassurance or it could be a message of warning. The message on a Kanga could be a way of expressing yourself.

The Colour Wheel

Lubaina uses strong colours and simple shapes in her paintings.

A colour wheel is a simple tool to help you choose which colours best go together.

From the Colour wheel can you pick out the primary colours?

What do you think now?

Now you have seen the exhibition, what do you think?

Are your thoughts different to before you looked around the show?

Take a few moments to write or draw something and then check to see what you did at the beginning.

What colours would you choose? And what would be your important message?

Want to learn more?

We have lots of free workshops and events for children at Modern Art Oxford. Please ask our Gallery staff to find out more!