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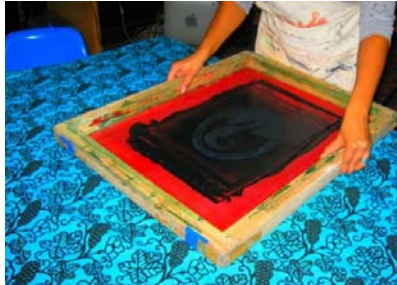
Harlem Textile Works 1677 Amsterdam Ave (at 143 St) New York, NY 10031

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www.aishacousins.com



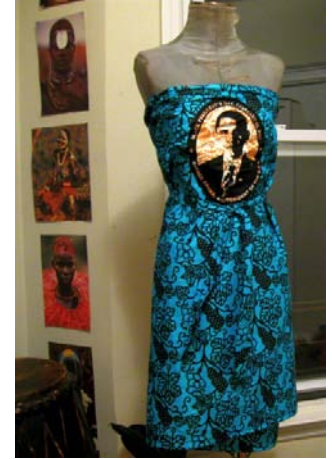
Shani Peters



Shani demos a silkscreen



Harriet's Alter Ego with finished skirt that doubles as a dress



Visit <http://aishacousins.com/press> for above photos and more at 72 dpi and 300 dpi

CELEBRATE "BLACK PRESIDENT'S DAY WEEKEND" AT HARLEM TEXTILE WORKS WITH THE OBAMA SKIRT PROJECT

February 19-21, 2011 New York, NY – Celebrate this President's Day weekend with the Obama Skirt Project at Harlem Textile Works. President's Day was started to pay homage to founding father George Washington and later expanded to include Abraham Lincoln. Will Barack Obama's historic presidency add him to the list? Celebrate this very special President's Day with these Black History Month events including a printmaking workshop, a special tour of the Obama Skirt Project exhibit, a chance to meet Obama Skirt Project fashion designers, and a free card making workshop in honor of Nina Simone's birthday which falls on President's Day this year.

FEBRUARY 19: 12-5PM. \$110 / \$70 FEE.

THE OBAMA SKIRT PROJECT'S "2011 BLACK PRESIDENT'S DAY SALE"

ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED. VISIT [HTTPS://2011BLACKPRESIDENTSDAYSALE.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://2011blackpresidentsdaysale.eventbrite.com)

Want to join the Obama Skirt Project? Now is your chance. This President's Day weekend, artist Aisha Cousins, fashion design team Harriet's Alter Ego, and award winning printmaker Shani Peters are teaming up to sell you something money can't buy. Buy a piece of history and make your own limited edition work of art at this innovative screen printing, fashion, and cultural studies workshop. Learn the history of African political fabrics, including those printed for our own President Barack Obama. Then print your own limited edition Obama fabric. We'll even transform your fabric into a limited edition wrap skirt. Includes lunch from Globe Trippin Café.

FEBRUARY 20: 12-5PM. FREE TO SHOP (\$80 / \$40 FEE FOR SKIRT /FABRIC)

OBAMA FABRIC PRINTING & OPEN HOUSE WITH OBAMA SKIRT DESIGNER HARRIET'S ALTER EGO

Drop off any African print fabric and have award winning printmaker Shani Peters transform it into a limited edition "Black President's Day 2011" Obama fabric. Sign up to have Obama Skirt Project fashion designer Harriet's Alter Ego transform your Obama fabric into a limited edition wrap skirt. Shop with Harriet's and other fashion designers from the Obama Skirt Project. No fabric at home? No worries. Harriet's will have it for you to buy on site.

FEBRUARY 21: 12-3PM. FREE.

HAPPY BLACK PRESIDENT'S DAY NINA SIMONE! CARD MAKING WORKSHOP

Did you know President's Day falls on Nina Simone's birthday this year? What would this jazz legend and civil rights advocate think if she had lived to see Obama become president? Celebrate by sending a card to President Obama with a story of a black woman in your life who fought for racial justice. Make cards at Harlem Textile Workshop with artists Aisha Cousins and Shani Peters or download a card template free at www.aishacousins.com

JANUARY 21 – FEBRUARY 28: ON VIEW CONTINUOUSLY IN HARLEM TEXTILE WORKS' DISPLAY WINDOWS. FREE.
THE OBAMA SKIRT PROJECT.

Did you know women in over 30 African countries wear fabric with portraits of black candidates during presidential elections? The practice became popular in the 1950'-1960's when many African countries gained independence from colonial rule. Several of these countries (Ghana, Nigeria, Mali, South Africa, and Tanzania) printed fabrics to celebrate our first black president, Barack Obama. Afro-American artist Aisha Cousins collected these fabrics, brought them to US fashion designers (many recent African immigrants), and wore the resulting garments in the USA everyday for a year. View the garments along with photos and stories from Cousins' performance art project.

ABOUT AISHA COUSINS

Aisha Cousins writes performance art scores which explore black women's beliefs on beauty and document the changes that are taking place in their worlds. Her work has been featured in the New York Daily News and the Studio Museum in Harlem's magazine, as well as noted in the Village Voice and the New York Times. You can learn more about the Obama Skirt Project and other works at www.aishacousins.com

ABOUT SHANI PETERS

Shani Peters works in video, collage, printmaking, and social practice public projects. Her work is inspired by social collectivity, generational connections, and cultural record keeping. Exhibitions include Dash Gallery, the International Print Center New York, and the Schomburg Center. She is currently in Artist residencies at both the Bronx Museum and the Lower East Side Printshop. You can learn more about Shani's work at www.shanipeters.com

ABOUT HARRIET'S ALTER EGO

Inspired by textiles, detailing, and functionality of indigenous dress, Hekima Hapa and Ngozi Odita are legendary for bringing cultured couture to the streets of New York. Counting clients like India. Arie, Talib Kweli, M.I.A, Mos Def, BET and Yerba Buena , the duo's boutique and art gallery was a destination for music, fashion and art enthusiasts, from across the nation and overseas. Through Society HAE, the duo continue to incorporate emerging art of all mediums into the daily lives of the NYC community Follow their evolution at www.societyhae.com

ABOUT HARLEM TEXTILE WORKS

Located in Manhattan in historic Hamilton Heights, Harlem Textile Works is a design studio and training facility dedicated to preserving the traditional art of textile design, while offering arts education and career development to youth and adults. Since its inception, **Harlem Textile Works** has successfully trained African American and Latino youth in silkscreen printing techniques and art and textile design, while nurturing and cultivating within them an entrepreneurial spirit. www.harlemtextileworks.com

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For further information contact: HarlemTextileWorks@yahoo.com , aisha_cousins@hotmail.com
Or visit: www.aishacousins.com

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