



Skirt (Isikhakha)

Date
early to mid 20th Century

Primary Maker
Xhosa

Medium
Cotton, glass, shell and pigment

Description
Long, A-line skirts called isikhakha are traditional Xhosa

items of clothing. They are usually white or reddish and are only made by women due to their incorporation of glass beadwork. In Xhosa culture, the way people dress indicates their social status, the size of their family, their region of origin, the ethnic group they belong to, and so on. Isikhakha are easy to make and wear, so they are still commonly worn today. In the past, missionaries would prohibit Christian converts from wearing traditional dress, but now it is more popular to wear traditional Xhosa clothes.

Dimensions
31 × 60 in. (78.7 × 152.4 cm)