

# Basic Detail Report

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## Skirt (Nshak)

**Date**  
early to mid 20th Century

**Primary Maker**  
Kuba

**Medium**

Raffia, cotton thread and pigment

### Description

Nshak are midcalf-length skirts worn by Kuba women in the Democratic Republic of Congo made of red and white raffia weaving. Usually, men will make the base cloth, a process that includes dyeing and softening raffia leaves and then weaving them into cloth, and women will decorate the skirts with embroidery in black thread or patches of cloth. Nshak are often betrothal gifts woven for a bride by her husband-to-be and decorated by his female relatives.

### Dimensions

22 7/8 × 155 in. (58.1 × 393.7 cm)