

Queen Ahneva Ahneva, *When You Wear Your Culture, You Wear Your Crown*



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The **Black Panther** movie may well be on its way to breaking records and setting Fashion Trends. But one such African Couturier Designer has been doing just that for over 30 years. **Queen Ahneva Ahneva**, “**The First Lady of African Couture Design**”. Ahneva has been incorporating traditional African textiles in her collection for her entire career.

Her Chicago born swagger is spiked by her Hollywood red carpet flair as the go-to designer for high fashion Africa in United States and Africa and beyond, Ahneva was formally trained in the USA in Fashion Design and Merchandising. Her passion for African textiles has shaped her entire career. Ahneva, has learned the gentle mastery of weaving and blending these textiles in a romantic fashion statement of “Love for Africa” and its people.

Ahneva’s love affair with African Textiles started early while still in high school where she served as Vice President of the Black Student Union. Her job was to create Cultural Experiences for the students which meant wearing African

fashion. As a young leader trying to exemplify leadership qualities Ahneva went on a quest to seek out and find African fashion. Unfortunately there were very few in the community. But through her diligence Ahneva met the Cultural Curator of African textiles, Mrs. Yural Johnson. “She taught me so much”. I went to her shop every day to learn more...she inspired me to research about the textiles. Ahneva developed a deep understanding and love for the beauty and mystery of African design techniques. She found the fulfillment of her fashion design calling by combining those African design motifs with Western design techniques procuring her version of African Centered Wearable Art “**Cultural Couture**.”

Ahneva left her native town of Chicago and moved to Los Angeles to join the Hollywood fashion industry. As she struggled to get into the designers guild for costume designs, she saw her dreams quickly fade into an area of racism, sexism and don’t forget drugs.



QAA WEARABLE ART GALLERY SHIP SHOWROOM OF QUEEN
AHNEVA AHNEVA 1436 SAN JUAN STREET LEVEL TWO ERON

Ahneva quickly knew this was not the direction she wanted to go in and quickly made a U-turn and started a new venture, DESIGNERS NETWORK INTERNATIONAL, a membership organization meant to galvanize designers into one voice. But it seems her voice was the only one crying for change. After trying and trying to get designers to come together and a series of defeats and no financial means of support, Ahneva soon turned her attention back to her first love Fashion Design. In Hollywood, a town where everyone and their mother is a designer, Ahneva knew early on that she needed something that would separate her from everyone else. That something was what she knew and loved, African textile designs...it was a no brainer. This would be her niche market, the one that would prove to be the right choice changed her life; **Queen Ahneva Ahneva Wearable Art** was born.

Since taking that giant step Queen Ahneva has become the premier designer of African Centered Cultural Couture in the United States, Africa. She is a pioneer of the form and a crusader for the philosophy: ***“When You Wear Your Culture, You Wear Your Crown”***. Ahneva started traveling to Africa in the early 80’s, a designer known for her exquisite designs she felt compelled to go to the source, the essence, quintessence of African textiles for her designs.

In 2007 Ahneva decided to move her manufacturing headquarters to Nigeria, West Africa, where she was embraced by the African family. **Ahneva Ahneva International (AAI) LLC LTD** was born. AAI employs over 25 African men and women, artisans, dyers, tailors, painters, batik artists many talented young men and woman who when trained have been able to produce an Incredible collection of Wearable Art. Ahneva’s collection is a palette of bead works, cord art, unique patterns Batik on Silk Charmeuse, linen’s and the finest Ethiopian cottons.

Ahneva’s works have been mainly focused on ‘ONE OF A KIND’ Haute Couture. Her collections have been worn by such luminaries **Angela Bassett, Alfre Woodard, Chris Tucker, Quincy Jones, Stevie Wonder**, Heads of States, politicians and celebrities from around the world.

Having returned to her home in the USA, Ahneva is busy re-establishing her base in Atlanta, GA.

Densua’s African Treasures on the third floor inside **Macy’s Greenbrier Mall**, recently hosted Ahneva’s first US trunk showcase which was a major success. So much so that the owner has decided to also carry Ahneva’s collection in their Gallery/Boutique permanently.

QAA, continues to emerge as an international bridge builder bringing together African Culture Couture and



Tradition with the mid-luxury markets. Recently QAA Wearable Art Collection joined forces with Mrs. Jo Roberson Edwards, Founder/Executive Director of **CAUSE for Elegance**. The Showroom plans to launch her “Ready to Wear Collection” Spring/Summer at **Phipps Plaza**, a shopping mall located in the affluent **Buckhead District of Atlanta**. “This is the opportunity of a lifetime to finally have a luxury outlet in the US is what I have been praying for”.

Ahneva says she is just getting stated and will continue to create fabulous fashion. Her main goal is to continue to create opportunities that allow her to support the amazing artists, the young men and women that are so multi-talented, so brilliant to continue to thrive and grow is her Life mission. As Ahneva continues to navigate through the International business arena she says it’s a constant learning curve. Every single day but believes in her heart that she is the right one to get it done. 📧