



## Inkciyo, Xhosa front apron

### Date

20th century

### Medium

Glass beads, metal washers, brass US military button, cotton, thread

### Description

Traditional ceremonial dance apron, native term "Inkciyo," worn by young women from the Xhosa people of South Africa. Possibly from the Thembu Kingdom. Izinkcriyo are worn with full skirts, called "umbhaco," by pubescent girls during puberty rights initiation into womanhood. Glass beads, metal washers, and brass US military button (US Army, Great Seal button, 20th century) are of European/American origin and were common trade items during the 19th and 20th centuries.

### Dimensions

Overall (with mount): 14 1/2 × 10 in. (36.8 × 25.4 cm)