

BARK CLOTH - THE MAKING OF



1. After removing the tree's outer bark, the inner bark is cut open.



2. The inner bark is separated from the tree.



3. After the harvest, the tree is wrapped in banana leaves for protection. After a few months, the banana leaves fall off and the tree will grow a new bark.



4. The bark is repeatedly beaten with a hammer-like instrument until it reaches the desired softness and transforms from bark to cloth.



5. The treated bark is laid out in the open.

Bark Cloth was one of the first fabrics known to be made by mankind. The first use of this fabric-making procedure is believed to be in the African continent, though its exact origins are lost to history. Bark Cloth was made by peeling the inner bark off trees and beating it until it was soft. Bark Cloth is used for loincloths, skirts, draperies and wall hangings; in thick layers it makes an excellent bed. So ancient is the art of making the cloth, that it is deeply involved in religious and ceremonial life.

In Borneo, a strip of the cloth signifies mourning. In Malawi, it has traditionally formed the initiation dress of girls. In India, some sects prescribe bark cloth as the dress of a religious recluse.

The Bark Cloth is a respected item in the burial ceremonies of quite a number of communities in Uganda.

The Bark Cloth used in this wallcovering is cultivated from Mutuba trees (*Ficus natalensis*) on eco-certified farms in Uganda. It is 100% plant fiber, an authentic organic "living" cloth at the interface between textile and wood.

Every Bark Cloth is unique in texture and colour. Only when highly skilled masters are employed during bark harvest and its subsequent processing, can we offer "nature in perfection" for nearly unlimited applications.

A good command of debarking a tree and the ancient knowledge of bark treatment - like finding the best beating rhythm to beat a cloth from bark - is essential for the production of high quality Bark Cloth. Only under these exacting conditions and the right mixture of time, rain and sunshine does Bark Cloth reveal its unique structure, suppleness and depth, which reflects our own heavy demands on quality. Bark Cloth is manufactured without any textile agents or other chemicals. It is a pure grown and manualmechanically treated bast fiber, 100% organic.

ARTE®

wallcoverings for the ultimate in refinement

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6. The fabric is now dyed in the desired colour.



7. After dyeing, the fabric is laid out in the open to dry.



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Because of its natural origin no Bark Cloth is the same in texture or colour. Because of the moisture used in the glue and the natural origin of the Bark Cloth an odeur can appear when freshly applied, this will dissapear within a few days.



8. Different pieces of fabric are sewn together to form one big piece of fabric.



9. The finished cloth is stretched out on a frame. It is then laminated on a non-woven backing in order to create a high-quality wallcovering.