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Cover Art by *Fatima Aboubakar*

## About the Cover Art

The cover art of this journal was illustrated by a Montreal-based artist named Fatima Aboubakar. She is a respiratory and anesthesia therapist with family origins from Chad, Africa.

Designed on the cover's background is a Moroccan-styled textile motif, an African Berber heritage that has since been influenced by Islamic and Arab cultures through time. The beige and grainy background color as well as the green and yellow motifs represent the colors of the African savannah.

The black, African, woman in the forefront is wearing a traditional sub-Saharan garment, with many African flags printed on the fabric. She represents the “Motherland”. She wears golden jewelry, representing the wealth of Africa, in terms of resources. The jewelry also represents the beauty, intricacy, diversity and value of African people, cultures and traditions.

The cowrie shells on the necklace illustrates the continual presence of African history and traditions in modern Africa. Cowrie shells were once used in trade as a form of currency. They currently have spiritual, symbolic and divine significance in many African cultures.

Finally, the golden circuit design drawn on her face represents the era of technology – i.e. the “modern” theme of this journal. The woman is looking forward, metaphorically showcasing the continent's on-going strive for everlasting growth.