

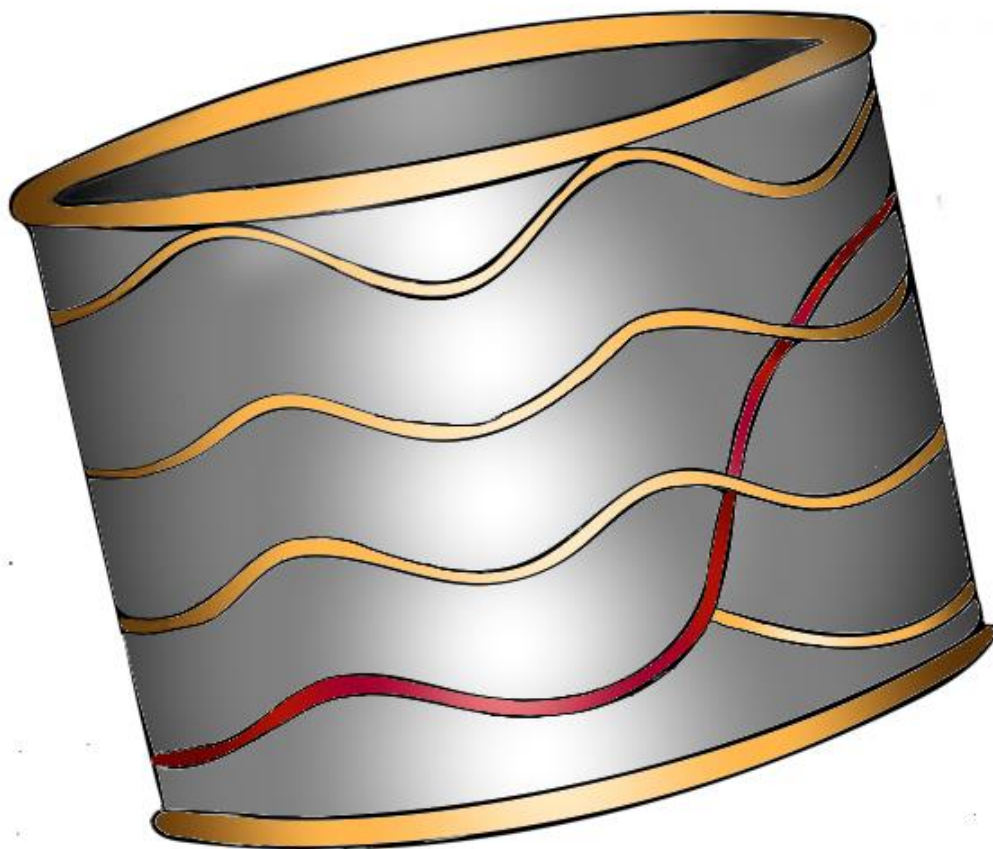
# SCIENCE FICTION FASHION:

Wakandan Artifact  
inspired by *Black Panther* (2018)

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**Wakanda Artifact, Final Designs:**

(1) DORA MILAJE WARRIORS'  
ELECTIFYING RING



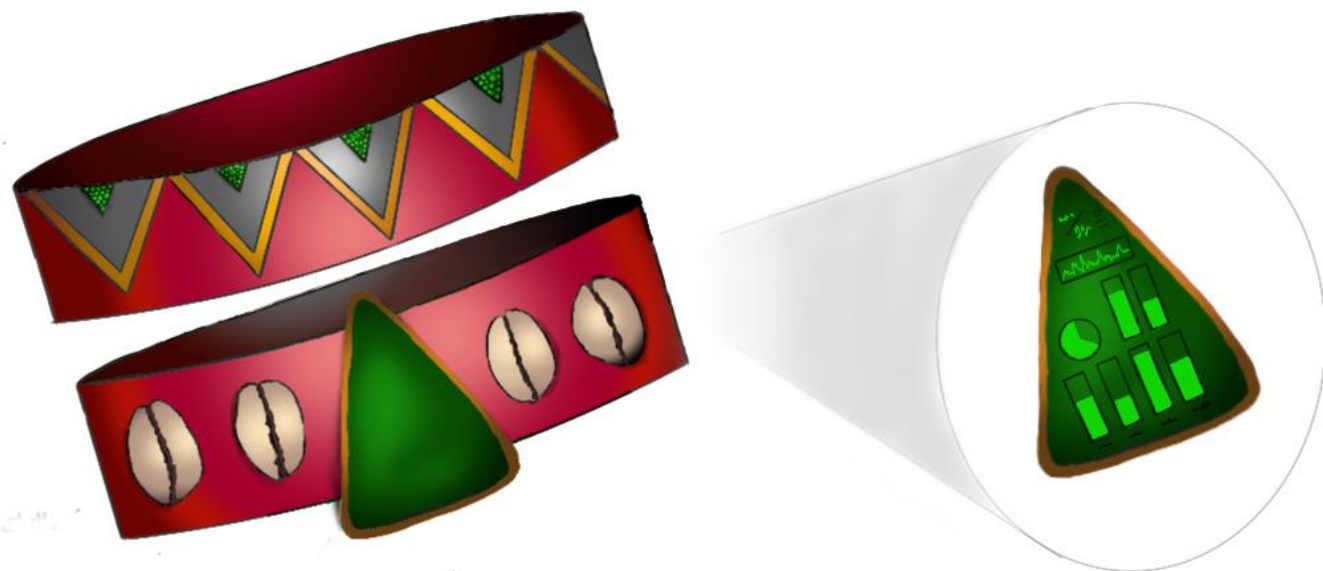
(2) DORA MILAJE WARRIORS'  
SHIELDING RING



### (3) NAKIA'S SPEAR RING



#### (4) DORA MILAJE WARRIORS' HEALTH RING



## (5) NAKIA'S INFORMATIVE RING



### **Wakandan Artifact – Artist Statement (Revised Discussion #7):**

In the Afrofuturistic world of Ryan Coogler's Black Panther, one-of-a-kind rings serve as the affirmation of royal blood as would a King's crown, passed down through the bloodline of those who govern the nation of Wakanda. Thus, this piece of jewelry – one with the power, seen with Erik Killmonger, to solidify royal blood and justify replacement of the throne – holds vast narrative, historical, and cultural significance. The jewelry of nearly every character throughout the film is carefully designed to reflect the traditional values of various African tribes and cultural histories, some jewelry and accessories functioning in technological capacities, as well. Thus, Afrofuturism's combination of historical, futuristic, and scientific/technological themes manifests in the film's jewelry, alone. Influenced by the film's costume, jewelry, and set design, I created a series of vibranium armored rings that showcase African cultural values, traditions, and aesthetic designs. Simultaneously, the artifacts incorporate futuristic technological functionality that specifically aids the efforts of the Dora Milaje Warriors and Nakia as a spy, all for whom the rings are designed. Collectively, all of these ring designs also singularly showcase black, red, and green colors as a reflection of the Pan-African flag (Rysik), amongst prominent silver and gold common to jewelry design in general and within Black Panther. Accordingly, the artifacts would prove useful as fixed tools and weapons at the warriors' or spy's fingertips, any place or time.

Worn by the warriors, the first ring in the series is designed to send an electric pulse/shock upon combative impact (for instance, a punch or hit). The horizontal wave design was inspired by the Oribi Gorge, a cliffside of rocks that has similar layered, horizontal lines (Mather). The nonlinear, asymmetry of the gorge, embracing Afrofuturism's organic characteristics (Africadotcom), is reflected in the overlapping red line that extends downward through the ring's waves. The enveloping effect of an electric shock that would fill the enemy's

body parallels the physical cliffside of Wakanda's Warrior Falls, inspired by the Oribi Gorge, that surrounds the nation of Wakanda. Additionally, this red line symbolizes the electric shock that would run through the body, just like how it runs through the gold lines.

In addition to this 'electrifying' ring, the second design made for the Dora Milaje Warriors is a set of rings across all fingers and presents a holographic shield as the fist clenches – a counterpart to W'Kabi and the Border Tribe's cloaks ("W'Kabi & The Border Tribe"). The bands of these rings also incorporate engraved Wakandan text like that seen on Nakia's green dress worn in Korea (Ryzik). This text also resembles various African tribes' hand-made cloth, which often incorporates symbols and text significant to their culture. Moreover, the holographic shield that the ring presents mirrors the color and design of holograms in the film (Yuen), again like those manifested by the Border Tribe's cloaks.

Incorporating the importance of the triangle, "the sacred geometry of Africa" (Rysik), the third set of vibranium armored rings centers triangular shapes and a second band with an attached spear. Serving as a covert offensive measure for Nakia during dangerous spy missions, the small spear quickly expands out of the ring upon command to form a twelve-inch spear fixed in hand. This effect is similar to how T'Challa's Black Panther suit manifests out of his necklace (or even The Wolverine's claws out of his knuckles). The use of the spear and the incorporation of beads within the traditionally sacred triangular shape reflects traditions seen throughout Africa, such as the Turkana, Suri, and Maasai tribes (Ryzik). Additionally, the leather that binds the spear to the ring is influenced by the Dora Milaje Warriors' leather harnesses that are hand-stitched by South African craftsmen for the film (Ryzik).

Again for the warriors, the fourth vibranium armored ring also incorporates the sacred triangle symbol with a robust green stone at the center and a triangular zig-zag pattern in the



second band of the pair. The stone would serve not only to potentially strengthen a punch, but it would also read a warrior's health status, especially useful during physical combat, by scanning one's fingerprint when placed upon the green stone. Thus, in vigorous and physically demanding battles, they can monitor and maintain their health, therefore becoming less likely to fail (as T'Challa did battling Erik). The shells across the rest reflect the traditional values of the Suri of Ethiopia (Ryzik), serving as an additional culturally significant detail.

The second ring made for Nakia remains relatively simple in its band, implementing more beads that are culturally significant to several African tribes (Rysik). The beads horizontally circle the band – as the Warrior Falls do Wakanda (Mather). The center showcases a tusk, rib-like, or circular barbell styled curved ring. Its crescent shape would project an informative hologram upon pointing (with the pointer finger paired with middle finger the ring lies on) to a person, place, or object – comparable to a Google search. The use of two fingers would eliminate the risk of pointing with only one with no intention of using the ring. Thus, the ring's purpose would be to aid a spy that seeks intel during a mission, obtaining it whenever necessary as well as covertly.

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