Transcription: Bonnie Greer on Mami Wata, spirit of water and wealth

Mami Wata is a city woman. She's a businesswoman. She's of herself. She's doing her own thing. And she can be who she wants to be. So, she can be whatever colour or whatever complexion she wants to be. And she lives by her own agency. And she's a, she don't take no stuff because she's got that python around her neck and it's like, you know, you mess with Mami Wata, and you know, things may happen to you that you didn't expect. So, I love her. She's fantastic.

And the brass dish – it seems to have a mermaid in the middle and the mermaid was sometimes considered half human, half fish. And so, in that sense, we are all creatures of the sea. We came from the sea. Our species came from the sea and we evolved on the land. And this mermaid is both a reminder of that and also, I think, the idea of being able to be in your own space without fear and to be more than one thing. You can be more than one thing and still be yourself.

When I was quite young, and we're talking about the seventies, mainly and the early eighties. We didn't have a lot of access. Women had to fight really hard to get access to tools of scholarship. Now, it's not the same. It's a different battle. So, women as a whole are better educated, freer in the sense that they can begin to look at themselves in a range of definitions, where my generation was fighting to be detached.