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## 'China renamed Rosa – From childhood sold five times'

The life of China, called by at least three names and sold five times, illustrates how impossible it was for a slave to hold onto even the most basic unit of identity. China of Singaracolla was sold into slavery as a child.

Six years later, 'China, renamed Rosa' was sold for 18 pagados, to a VOC sailor, Hendrik Hillman. A month after this, now recorded as 'Rosa', she was sold at a 100 percent profit to a Dutch ship's captain, Cornelius Bosch.

He set sail five months later on the Bovenkerker Polder bound for Cape Town and took her with him.

The final record of sale was in 1775, when China was 16 or 17; she was bought by the most senior clergyman of the Cape, Johannes Serrurier.

He was the father of twelve children, which suggests that China's workload was heavy. No record survives of a further sale so one must assume that she died in Cape Town.

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In support of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Iziko Museums is highlighting the lives of 12 women featured in 'Under Cover of Darkness', on exhibition at the Iziko Slave Lodge.

Stories brought to light in this exhibition intend to show a range of experiences and circumstances of the lives of women under the yoke of colonialism – among them, women who lived and died in servitude, and those who managed to gain their freedom.

📷:Nashad Soeker

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