

Basic Detail Report



Bag

Date

c. 1875

Primary Maker

Tahltan

Medium

Woolen cloth, glass beads, dentalium shell, smoked tanned caribou or moosehide, sinew, cotton thread, cotton cloth

Description

In the 1800s, Tahltan men used firebags to store tobacco, shot, and fire-making equipment. By the early 1900s however, firebags were an important part of ceremonial dress, and featured bold designs on vivid red cloth. The geometric designs on the strap of this bag were inspired by the work of neighboring Tlingit basket makers. Tahltan women adorned the firebags with dentalium, a highly prized white horn-shaped shell traded by the people of Vancouver Island. A woman's love for her husband was said to be reflected in the quality of a firebag.

Dimensions

Overall: 28 3/4 × 6 1/2 in. (73 × 16.5 cm)