

Basic Detail Report



Octopus Bag

Date

1860-1880

Primary Maker

Ellen Underwood (Taswatha)

Medium

Glass beads, tanned buckskin, wool stroud, cotton fabric and thread

Description

Ellen Underwood is believed to have made this octopus bag – so named because of the tentacelike drops at the bottom of the bag. Cree and Metis families brought this new tradition west with them from Manitoba and Ontario. The appearance of these bags likely challenged the creative imaginations of Wasco women such as Underwood. The technique of beadworking – the vertical and horizontal configuration of warp and weft – lent itself to traditional geometric Wasco expressions.

Dimensions

Overall (With fringe and handle): 6 3/8 x 18 3/4 in. (16.2

x 47.6 cm) Overall (Not including fringe and handle): 6 3/8 x 14 3/4 in. (16.2 x 37.5 cm)