



Nisqually Basket

Date

1890-1900

Primary Maker

Nisqually

Medium

Cedar root, cedar splint, beargrass (xerophyllum), red

cedar bark (thuja), horsetail (equisitum)

Description

The Nisqually, a small tribe from the southern area of the Puget Sound in Washington State, produced beautiful and elaborately patterned baskets. The overall design on the basket is a broad serrated zigzag with small curvilinear floral and vine motifs tucked in between. The maker of this basket imbricated, or overlapped, several types of grasses onto the cedar root foundation to achieve specific colors. The artist used bear grass for the golden background, red cedar bark for the reddish hue, horsetail for black and for the very pale yellow, dyed bear grass.

Dimensions

Overall: 7 × 15 in. (17.8 × 38.1 cm)