

Basic Detail Report



Coat

Date

1785-1800

Primary Maker

Innu (Naskapi)

Medium

Caribou skin, pigments, sinew thread

Description

This coat was made of caribou skin by a Innu (Naskapi) woman in Labrador in the late eighteenth century. Despite its considerable age, the skin has maintained its suppleness, bearing witness to the high quality of Native tanning techniques. The parts were sewn together with thread made from animal sinew, following a coat pattern derived from seventeenth-century European fashion. In painting the coat the woman utilized both native and imported color pigments, mixed with an oil made of fish roe, and applied the paint with a bone stylus. For drawing parallel lines she used a fork-like pronged tool. In addition to this coat she painted similar designs on a cap, a pair of mittens, leggings and moccasins. (c.f. Burnham 1991, pp. 50, 149, 153, 158, 162 & 171)

Dimensions

Overall: 66 × 44 in. (167.6 × 111.8 cm)