

Basic Detail Report



Bag

Date

c. 1840-1860

Primary Maker

Seneca (Haudenosaunee)

Medium

Velvet, silk binding, glass beads, cotton and crepe lining, thread

Description

In the early 1800s, Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) women began to offer beaded bags with floral and abstract imagery for sale to non-Natives, particularly travelers and tourists who visited Niagara Falls. Both the end of the War of 1812 and the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 contributed to the dynamics of this new activity. Although

the majority of bags were sold, Seneca Bag; Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) women also wore the purses to accompany the beaded finery of their skirts, leggings and moccasins. Such may be the case for this bag with its unusual imagery of a bird, which was probably a vision or dream-inspired creation.

Dimensions

Overall: 6 × 6 1/2 × 1/2 in. (15.2 × 16.5 × 1.3 cm)