

Basic Detail Report



Bag

Date

c. 1840

Primary Maker

Seneca (Haudenosaunee)

Medium

Velvet, silk binding, glass beads, cotton, thread

Description

This finely beaded bag has cosmological symbolism in its design. The curved elements radiating from the central diamond relate to the four cardinal directions of the universe. The central diamond symbolizes the center of the universe, or the opening in the sky through which Sky Woman fell. Haudenosaunee (Iroquoian) women began to make beaded bags for sale to travelers and tourists

around 1800. Some of these bags may have been used for medicinal purposes among the Iroquois.

Dimensions

Overall: 7 × 6 3/4 in. (17.8 × 17.1 cm)