

Basic Detail Report



Bag

Date

c. 1840-1860

Primary Maker

Seneca (Haudenosaunee)

Medium

Wool cloth, silk binding, glass beads, cotton lining, thread

Description

Bags dating from the first half of the 19th century provide a rich overview of Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) beadwork. Around 1800, Haudenosaunee (Iroquoian) women began to make beaded bags for sale to non-Natives, primarily travelers and tourists. Older quill-worked traditions of geometric and curvilinear elements such as double curves

and scrolls were translated in beads. Many bags have simple geometric patterns, but others seem to refer to cosmological symbolism. The four cardinal directions frequently appear in the beadwork. Other designs are abstract, suggesting dream or vision-inspired experiences.

Dimensions

Overall (With handles): 12 1/2 × 6 1/2 in. (31.8 × 16.5 cm) Overall (Without handles): 7 × 6 1/2 in. (17.8 × 16.5 cm)