

Basic Detail Report



Flute

Date

c. 1875

Primary Maker

Eastern Sioux (Dakota)

Medium

Wood, brass upholstery tacks, string, cotton binding, black silk tape, black and yellow pigment

Description

The stop, the tuning instrument on this flute, is carved in the shape of an arched horse's neck, reminiscent of the spirited behavior of a courting stallion. Young Indian men played wooden courting flutes to make girls aware of their presence and amorous desires. Men often carved the flute's stop to portray animals whose behavior was interpreted in amorous or erotic terms. The sweet melodies of the musician recall the sound of a courting crane whose delicately-carved head appears at the end of the flute.

Dimensions

Overall: 3 1/2 × 2 5/8 × 26 1/2 in. (8.9 × 6.7 × 67.3 cm)