



Bandolier Bag

Date

c. 1900

Primary Maker

Potawatomi

Medium

Cloth, tape edging, glass beads, yarn tassels, cotton binding

Description

A bandolier bag is a large beaded bag that has a wide shoulder strap. “Bandolier” is a French word used to describe a shoulder belt that had loops or pockets for cartridges. Native men often wore two bandolier bags crosswise on the chest as a symbol of social standing and wealth. From the 1850s to 1900, the bags gained

popularity among Great Lakes Indians who regarded them as symbols of their Indian culture and heritage. Women favored both geometric and floral patterns when designing bandolier bags for their husbands. This bags’ large scale dates it to the early 20th century when bags became flamboyant in size and design. They did have a pouch to hold items but were celebrated for their sheer mastery of beadwork.

Dimensions

Overall: 14 1/2 × 38 in. (36.8 × 96.5 cm)