



## Parka (Qas'peq)

### Date

c. 1890-1910

### Primary Maker

Central Yup'ik

### Medium

Seal intestine, sinew, animal hide, walrus fur, polar bear fur, thread, aniline dyes

### Description

For centuries, seemingly delicate seal-gut parkas such as this were indispensable for protection against the elements. Transforming animal skins and intestines into clothing bound animals, hunters and women together in spiritual accord. Respect for animal spirits was especially important for men during all aspects of the hunt, and for women during the careful cleaning and sewing of the skins. For centuries Eskimo women made seal-gut parkas to protect hunters from wind and rain on land and sea. These lightweight garments were valuable protection against the elements and were handsomely ornamented. The bright red, purple and green-dyed fur stands out in vivid contrast against the white seal gut which owes its opaqueness to a sub-zero degree curing technique. The inverted V design may represent mountains, wolves' teeth, or a harpoon head.

### Dimensions

Overall: 58 × 44 in. (147.3 × 111.8 cm)