Basic Detail Report



Button Blanket

Date
c. 1880

Primary Maker
Haida

Medium
Wool, cotton, abalone shell, mother-of-pearl buttons, brass

Description
This type of robe allowed men and women to display their crests on a grand scale. The crest is positioned over their back, encircling them in their family’s inherited rights and privileges. The imagery on this button robe likely represents a sculpin, an important crest. Iridescent mother-of-pearl buttons and abalone shell accent the crest design and borders. The Haida traded goods or raw materials to acquire the brilliant blue-green Californian abalone. The incorporation of this precious material elevated the symbolic power of the necklace and earrings, and thereby the prestige, of its owner.

Dimensions
Overall: 53 1/2 × 68 in. (135.9 × 172.7 cm)