

Arrow belt

<https://collections.pacmusee.qc.ca/en/objects/arrow-belt-2021-007-034/>

Collections / arrow belt



CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 license

Arrow belt with lightning motif. The belt is made from Quebec carded wool in red, white, blue, yellow and green. The artisan's label is sewn on one side. Its braiding features a lynx eye.

Accession Number 2021.07.34

Date 1990 an

Materials fiber, wool

Technique braided

Measurements 14 x 174 cm

Historical context

This arrow belt was made in the late 20th century by Roger Yves St-Pierre, a craftsman from Saint-Eustache, Quebec. The braiding on this belt has the particularity of being reversed in half: this joint is known as the lynx eye. This feature is purely aesthetic, as the motifs fall in the same direction when the piece is worn.

In 1967, Quebec was opening up to the world, notably with the World's Fair. Traditional society was being questioned by many, and its customs challenged. The "Quiet Revolution" marked a major break with the past. A new Québécois voice emerged, free from the traditional canons of French-Canadian culture. However, Phidias Robert, an octogenarian craftswoman, reawakened interest in the ceinture fléchée. Aware of her invaluable knowledge, she shared her know-how in Montreal's public square in 1967.

Links were forged between a number of local darts makers. Classes were organized and new practitioners began to appear. As weaving became fashionable, particularly with macramé, darting became popular. This

enthusiasm led to the creation of associations, including the Association des artisans de ceinture fléchée du Québec in 1972.

And so, since the 1970s, the practice of fléché has been the focus of conservation efforts. A number of specialists are keeping this know-how alive with a view to passing on historical and traditional knowledge.

© Pointe-à-Callière Collection, donation by Luc Émond, 2021.007.034

Photo by Louis-Etienne Dore