

Arrow belt

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Acadian-style arrow belt with lightning bolt motif. The belt is made of red, blue, white, green and brown wool, all colors derived from natural dyes. It is coated with beeswax.

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Artiste / Auteur Lanoix, Marie-Berthe

Date 4th quarter of the 20th century

Materials fiber, wool

Technique braided

Historical context


This arrow belt was made by Marie-Berthe Guibault Lanoix, one of Quebec's most renowned arrow makers. Using vegetable dyes and beeswax, her craftsmanship is traditional.

This is an "Acadian" belt. Its motifs are a double repetition of another model called "L'Assomption". The latter, developed in the early 18th century, is the older of the two, the "Acadienne" mention appearing only in writings from the early 20th century.

In 1967, Quebec was opening up to the world, notably with the Universal Exhibition. Traditional society was being questioned by many, and its customs challenged. The "Quiet Revolution" marked a major break with the past. A new Québécois way of speaking emerged, freeing itself from traditional French-Canadian canons. 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 several associations.

As a result, since the 1970s, efforts have been made to preserve the practice of fléché weaving. A number of specialists are keeping this know-how alive, with a view to passing on historical and traditional knowledge.



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