

Arrow belt

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Red, white and green arrowhead belt. Its colors come from synthetic dyes.
Made of rustic wool.

Accession Number 2021.07.38

Period 4th quarter of the 20th century

Materials fiber, wool

Technique braided

Measurements 8 x 184 cm

Historical context

This arrowhead belt is made from rustic wool from Quebec. Its weave can be described as “sober”, since it features only an arrowhead motif. It also comes in just 3 colors.

This piece was made for patriotic events around the 1980s and 1990s. In fact, its colors are those of the Patriotes flag. On the 125th anniversary of the Patriotes rebellions in 1962, their memory was revived and their struggle celebrated. Following pressure on the government to recognize a commemorative day, it decreed in 1982 that Patriotes Day would be held on the Sunday closest to November 23. It wasn't until the 2000s that the day was declared a public holiday and associated with Victoria Day.

This belt also bears witness to the revival of the practice of fléché in the 2nd half of the 20th century. In 1967, Quebec was opening up to the world with the Universal Exhibition. A new Quebecois voice was being expressed, freeing itself from traditional French-Canadian canons.

However, links were being forged between a number of darts makers in the Montreal area. Classes are organized and new practitioners appear. This enthusiasm led to the creation of several associations.

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

Photo by Louis-Etienne Dore

On display