

Ethnohistorical collection

Arrow belt

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Collections / arrow belt



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Arrowhead belt with lightning bolts. The belt is made of thick, gray, green, yellow and orange fabric. The colors come from synthetic dyes. The bangs are braided. An artisan's label is sewn onto one end.

Accession Number 2021.15.03

Period 1st half of the 20th century

Materials fiber, wool

Technique braided

Historical context

This arrow belt was made by Lucie Lavigne (1931-2023), a well-known Quebec craftswoman. She did much to promote and pass on the art of arrowwork, and was the founder of the Association québécoise des artisans de ceinture fléchée.

Analysis of a belt often reveals the specific features of the weave. Here, for example, the edges are wider in places. This particularity shows that the craftswoman was less at ease with the “backwards” part of the braiding process: arrowing requires different postures depending on the progress of the braiding, for which the dart maker’s ease may differ. Developed by French Canadians in the 2nd half of the 18th century, the practice of arrowing declined at the turn of the 20th century, only to regain popularity in the 1970s. Experienced hands began to teach weaving publicly, and links were gradually forged between many Montreal-area weavers. Associations sprang up and books were published, some by Lucie Lavigne.