

Ethnohistorical collection

# Arrow belt

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Arrow belt with flame motif. The belt is made of thick wool in white, yellow, red, green and blue. The colors come from synthetic dyes. The bangs are twisted. An artisan's label is sewn onto one end.

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Period 1st half of the 20th century

Materials fiber, wool

Technique braided

## Historical context

Because of its low tension, the braiding on this arrow belt is unusual. The line of regularity in the center is relatively visible, revealing a checkerboard pattern of thread, which corresponds to the “underside” of the braid.

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

The special features found on this belt are typical of Madame Lavigne’s creations, and more broadly of the arrow belts of the 1970s-1980s.

Thick wool is typical of this period, and differs from the fine wools used in the 19th century. Depending on the period, the fabric depends on the availability of wool on the market. Likewise, the colors reflect the effervescence of the period: the aim is to modernize the dart and adapt it to current tastes.

Developed by French Canadians in the 2nd half of the 18th century, the practice of fléché 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.

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