

Ethnohistorical collection

Arrow belt

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Collections / arrow belt



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Arrowhead belt with flames and elongated flames, made of 5 corridors. The belt is made of thick wool in blue, green, red and yellow. Its colors are derived from synthetic dyes. 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

While most arrow belts have an arrowhead “heart” in the center, from which the motifs originate, this one does not. Rather rare, this is a deliberate choice on the part of the craftswoman. In fact, the tips of the flames meet in the center of the belt.

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 fléché, and is also the founder of the Association québécoise des artisans de ceinture fléchée.

Fléché is a complex hand-braiding technique perfected by French Canadians in the second half of the 18th century. Old-style belts are made from very fine wool, and their tight weave gives them a distinctive texture. Although the belt shown here was made using the traditional fléché technique, the wool used is thicker. Similarly, the tension is lower: depending on the hands and the wool used, these specific features can vary from one creation to another.

These characteristics also reflect the period of manufacture: the 1970s witnessed a resurgence in the popularity of fléché. New enthusiasts appeared, associations were created and books were published. There was a desire to modernize the fléché and break away from traditional canons, experimenting with different colors and patterns, like this belt.

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