

Ethnohistorical collection

Arrow belt

<https://collections.pacmusee.qc.ca/en/objects/arrow-belt-2021-015-007/>

Collections / arrow belt



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Arrowed study piece with a succession of lynx-eye motifs on the outside and butterfly fillings on the inside. The piece is made of brown, white, orange and yellow wool. Its colors are derived from synthetic dyes.

Accession Number 2021.15.07

Period 1st half of the 20th century

Materials fiber, wool

Technique braided

Historical context

Aesthetic features such as its small size make it difficult to call this object an “arrow belt”, even though it was made using the arrow weaving technique. Likewise, its motifs make this piece unique. The craftsman has created a series of pattern inversions, notably using the lynx eye technique: on a traditional belt, this technique is used only once, and allows the direction of the patterns to be changed halfway through the belt.

Fléché is a hand-braiding technique for creating complex patterns, perfected by French Canadians in the second half of the 18th century. Declining in popularity at the turn of the 20th century, it regained popularity in the 1970s, the period from which this piece originates. As Quebec opened up to the world with Expo 67, and a new Quebecois way of speaking emerged, freeing itself from the traditional canons, some experienced hands began to teach fléché publicly. Despite this counter-current trend, links were forged between a number of Montreal-area darts makers. Associations were formed and books published. The aim was to modernize darts by breaking away from traditional canons, experimenting with different colors and patterns, as in this piece.

Photo by Michel Julien