

Ethnohistorical collection

# Arrow belt

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Arrow belt with 3-lightning pattern. The belt is made of two-tone wool in two shades of green. Its colors are derived from synthetic dyes. The belt has been braided on a wooden buckle. 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

In 1970, the practice of fléché was enjoying a resurgence in popularity. As a new Québécois way of speaking emerged and freed itself from traditional canons, particularly following the opening up of Québec to the world with Expo 67, some experienced hands began to teach darting publicly. Despite this counter-current trend, links were forged between a number of dart makers in the Montreal area. Associations were formed and books published.

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

The presence of a wooden buckle gives this arrow belt a distinctive aesthetic, as do its cut bangs and unconventional colors. While this piece may be surprisingly different from more traditional belts, it should be seen in context. In the 1970s-1980s, craftsmen and women wanted to move away from standards and modernize their practices. It is therefore common to find whimsical pieces from this period, such as this one.