

Ethnohistorical collection

Arrow belt

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Collections / arrow belt



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Arrowhead belt with 3 lightning bolts. The belt is made of orange, red and blue wool. The bangs are made up of braids, themselves divided into several braids. A label mentioning the craftswoman is sewn onto the belt.

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Fabricant / Éditeur Centrale d'Artisanat du Québec

Artiste / Auteur Barot, Cécile

Date 1957 an

Materials fiber, fine wool

Technique braided

Measurements 5 x 120 cm

Historical context

This arrow belt was made by Cécile Barot (1903-1957), a well-known Quebec craftswoman. Having learned the art of arrow weaving in Charlevoix, she perfected her technique in Montreal, studying the writings of Quebec anthropologist Marius Barbeau on the subject. Becoming a leading advocate of a disappearing art form, she authored a technical guide to the arrow belt, which was published in a book by Barbeau. Her contribution to the revitalization of this craft earned her the Grand Prix d'artisanat de la province de Québec in 1951.

Made in the 1940s or 1950s, this arrow belt reflects its era through its colors and the finesse of its workmanship. In fact, the few artisans of this period are striving to revive this technique by adapting it to contemporary tastes and uses. The result is vibrant colors, different from the standard colors of traditional belts.

Arrow belts were developed by French Canadians in the latter part of the 18th century. At the turn of the 20th century, they became essentially a folk element. Throughout the first half of the century, ethnologists, anthropologists like Marius Barbeau, and a few dart makers, including Cécile Barot, gradually began to take initiatives to preserve and promote the belts. Although the public was not very receptive, the practice of darting continued.



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