

Ethnohistorical collection

Arrow belt

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Collections / arrow belt



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Arrowhead belt with 3 lightning bolts in dotted border. The belt is made of yellow, green and red wool. The bangs are composed of braids, themselves divided into several braids. A label mentioning the craftswoman is sewn onto the belt.

Accession Number 2021.15.22

Fabricant / Éditeur Centrale d'Artisanat du Québec

Artiste / Auteur Barot, Cécile

Date 1957 an

Materials fiber, fine wool

Technique braided

Measurements 5,5 x 114 cm

Historical context

Historical background:

This arrow belt was made by Cécile Barot (1903-1957), a well-known Quebec craftswoman.

Arrow belts were developed by French Canadians in the latter part of the 18th century. From 1930 onwards, ethnologists, specialists and a handful of darts makers, including Cécile Barot, worked to preserve and promote the darting technique.

Having learned to dart in Charlevoix, Cécile Barot perfected her technique in Montreal, studying the writings of Quebec anthropologist Marius Barbeau. Recognized for her mastery, she became one of the leading defenders of an endangered art form, writing a technical guide to the ceinture fléchée.

Like this ceinture fléchée, Madame Barot's creations feature a wide variety of colors, and are relatively narrow. Presumably, this size allowed her to produce more and give greater prominence to the fléché, while adapting it to contemporary tastes and uses.

In fact, in addition to making belts at a frenetic pace, the craftswoman exhibits her creations and gives demonstrations at various craft fairs. In

fact, she collaborates with the Canadian Handicrafts Guild, a Canadian association involved in the preservation of traditional handicrafts. In tribute to her dedication to this revival of the practice, she was awarded the Grand Prix d'artisanat de la province de Québec in 1951.

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