

Ethnohistorical collection

Arrow belt

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Collections / arrow belt



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Arrowhead belt with 2 lightning bolts in dotted border. The belt is made of red, white 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.

Accession Number 2021.15.27

Fabricant / Éditeur Centrale d'Artisanat du Québec

Artiste / Auteur Barot, Cécile

Date 1957 an

Materials fiber, fine wool

Technique braided

Measurements 8 x 106 cm

Historical context

Arrow belts were developed by French Canadians in the latter part of the 18th century. By the turn of the 20th century, they had essentially become an element of folklore. Throughout the first half of the century, conservation and valorization initiatives were gradually put in place by a few darts makers such as Cécile Barot (1903-1957), creator of the belt shown here, and anthropologists such as Quebecer Marius Barbeau, considered the father of Quebec and Canadian anthropology.

Adapting her creations to the tastes of her time, notably by using contemporary colors, Madame Barot braided a multitude of pieces while giving demonstrations at craft fairs. Although this arrowed belt is part of this large collection, its weave is somewhat different. In fact, its line of regularity (the horizontal line in the center of the belt) is somewhat disparate. As a result, this piece may reflect the craftswoman's beginnings.

Having learned the art of fléché while on vacation in Charlevoix, Cécile Barot perfected her art in Montreal with the writings of Marius Barbeau, and became a leading advocate of a dying art. In recognition of her dedication to this revival of the practice, she was awarded the Grand

Prix d'artisanat de la province de Québec in 1951. Her work has been featured in numerous exhibitions.

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