

Coat

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Coat with shoulder bangs in deerskin, embroidered with flowers and metal beads, unlined, only the collar with striped cotton fabric and thinner skin. The flower-embroidered coat is adorned with beaded motifs on the front and both pockets, in the manner of the Métis of the northern forests. These motifs are part of native iconography. The coat buttons are missing.

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Period 1st quarter of the 20th century

Materials fiber, fiber, cotton, pearl, skin, deer

Measurements 81 x 54 cm

Historical context

The Métis Nation's hunting coat has become an emblem of the mountains, plains and prairies of western North America. It first appeared in this form in the 19th century, and is still made today by Métis artists. Serrated and fringed leather is common on these coats. They are made from the hides of American bison, deer, moose, caribou or, more rarely, antelope, depending on the region and the availability of wild cervids or bovids. Métis motifs are executed using a variety of embroidery techniques, including silk thread, porcupine quills, glass beads or simply painted, depending on the period, cultural area, native nations involved and family traditions. These motifs adorn parts such as pockets, collars and sleeves, which are sometimes unstitched and reused on other coats. These hunting coats, based on the cut of European military coats, have a certain prestige and were often bought as souvenirs or given as gifts to dignitaries.

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