

Envelope for Tikinagan

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Collections / envelope for Tikinagan



This object is used as a baby carrier by native communities.

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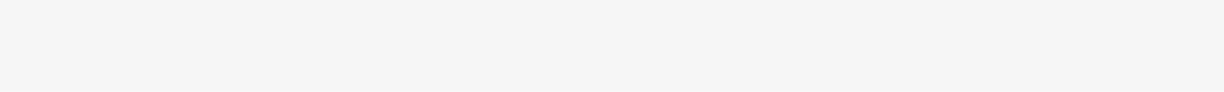
Period 20th century

Materials fiber, fiber, wool

Measurements 47 x 14,5 x 13 cm

Historical context

After being carefully swaddled in a blanket, the infants are inserted into envelopes such as this one to aid transportation. The swaddled child can then be placed in a tikinagan (baby carrier) or in a kind of small hammock that used to hang in a corner of the house. Originally, these wraps were made from a single beaver skin, with the fur facing inwards. Wooden tikinagans also come with their own laced cover, sewn directly onto the wooden board using sinew or coarse waxed cotton thread. This childlike piece has resisted intensive acculturation and is still used by the Algonquin nations of the Subarctic cultural zone. The Anicinape, Eeyou and Nehirowisiw nations have long favored plaid fabrics for these wraps, while white cotton canvas is more common among the Innuat (Innu). Rarer, finely embroidered smoked-skin models are still made by various nations.



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Photo by Victor Diaz Lamich