

Glove

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Rectangular wooden display case with hermetically sealed glass containing a pair of Iroquois deerhide gloves ? There is embroidery forming illustrations of flowers in silk thread on the hand and at the bottom of the glove, and a muskrat fur border at the end of the glove. The low sides of the gloves are fringed. The display case is made of wood and painted with lace or arrow motifs, with Plexiglas glass and a metal hanging system on the back.

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Materials fiber, silk, fur, muskrat, plastic, acrylic, skin, leather, wood

Measurements 8,2 x 107,5 cm

Historical context

These Métis hunting gloves, crafted in a style typical of central and

western North America, are designed to protect from the cold and provide a better grip than mittens for handling reins and firearms. The Métis Nation has been dubbed “The Floral Beadwork People” by some First Nations, due to their extensive use of floral motifs in their bead and thread embroidery. This art of embroidery spread from east to west with the migration of Métis families and the establishment of Catholic missions west of the Great Lakes in the first half of the 19th century. The silk thread motifs found on these gloves are predominantly pink and inspired by the prairie rose or Labrador rose, two plants found in abundance on the plains and prairies of the West. The use of these emblematic flowers marks a sense of belonging to a territory by association with the natural world. In this way, the embroidered gloves of Métis culture transcend their functional roots and become a symbol of identity.

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