

Basic Detail Report



Mola

Date

late 1940s-mid 1950s

Primary Maker

Guna people

Medium

dyed cotton and thread

Description

Many contemporary molas portray realistic or abstract designs based on plants and animals. Guna women also

incorporate images from a wide variety of foreign cultural elements, including commercial product labels, magazines, cartoons, and other components from popular culture. In this mola, the artist drew inspiration not only from animals found around Guna Yala, but also from animals that are not typical of the area. In the center of the composition, two large figures are placed side by side. Based on the large ears and teeth, they appear to be rabbits with bushy tails. The rabbit on the left, being slightly smaller in stature, is likely female and the rabbit on the right male. Since rabbits are not native to Guna Yala, it is clear that the mola artist who created this work drew inspiration from elsewhere, possibly from personal travels, stories, photographs, magazines, or even Halloween masks. Similarly, the rabbits appear to be wearing sunglasses, a reference to the artist's awareness of popular culture and an indicator of globalization taking place in this area. Surrounding the two rabbits are the heads of six birds. Many different species of birds can be found on Guna Yala and they are a common theme in molas, making this mola a perfect combination of tradition and modernization.

Dimensions

Overall: 15 × 18 in. (38.1 × 45.7 cm)