

Basic Detail Report



Hair Ribbon (Cinta)

Date

collected 1932

Primary Maker

Artist Unknown

Medium

wool, silk and dye

Description

Although collected by Lothrop in Quezaltenango, this ceremonial head wrap known as a cinta was probably made in the nearby village of Totonicapán. It would have been worn in religious ceremonies or at a wedding by the bride. The entire strip was wrapped around the head in a disc-like manner, and tied by weaving an end around the outer layer. It is made from a long strip of dyed cotton. Only the last four inches of the ends have embroidered decoration, as these would be the only portions seen once the ribbon was wrapped around the head. The embroidery is done in silk, indicating the importance of the piece, and includes a yellow, turquoise, purple, blue, and green color scheme. Typical abstract motifs of diamonds and lines are used among depictions of water birds. Water birds are an important religious symbol for highland Maya people and indicate the religious significance of this piece. The ends of the hair ribbon are adorned with pieces of silk tied in loops that dangle freely. The loops are made from straw wrapped with silver thread for durability. The attention to detail in this piece is a direct reflection of its importance in ceremony.

Dimensions

Overall: 1 1/4 x 579 in. (3.2 x 1470.7 cm)