

Basic Detail Report



Mola

Date

not dated

Primary Maker

Guna people

Medium

dyed cotton and thread

Description

The oldest molas in museums and private collections have geometric designs that recall the personal body tattoos first noted by the Spanish when they came into contact with the indigenous people of Panamá. This example illustrates an older geometric design but is more contemporary since it employs multiple colors. The forms are bowties that the maker likely saw on a person or in a picture. This mola is particularly beautiful and displays exquisite attention to detail, making it attractive to tourists for its exemplary craftsmanship. The bright colors are also an indication that this mola was made to draw the attention of tourists, who tend to purchase the vivid, multi-colored pieces.

Dimensions

Overall: 14 1/4 × 17 in. (36.2 × 43.2 cm)