

Basic Detail Report



Mola

Date

not dated

Primary Maker

Guna people

Medium

Dyed cotton and thread

Description

Traditionally, Guna women use their dreams as inspiration for designs but they can also find inspiration from the environment around them. This mola depicts a gandule (flute man) playing his instrument. He is surrounded by iguanas and children as he plays. The Guna have a wide range of musical instruments including the rattle, panpipe, and flute but no drums or string instruments. There are no central guidelines for music making and music composition is learned experimentally. This piece incorporates several symbols, colors, and techniques that are customary to mola making. Red signifies blood, and the geometric figures and animals represent transformation. In Guna mythology a human has the ability to transform into an animal, a concept frequently illustrated in molas, which often contain anthropomorphic figures.

Dimensions

Overall: 11 × 16 in. (27.9 × 40.6 cm)