



Overall: 60 x 36 in. (152.4 x 91.4 cm)

War Shirt (Batakari)

Date

20th century

Primary Maker

Akan people

Medium

cotton, indigo dye, leather, horn, fur and metal

Description

The use of shirts of this type by war leaders and hunters probably originated in the Muslim areas of northern Ghana, where this one was collected. They are adorned with small, leather-covered charms sewn around tightly folded papers containing written Islamic phrases or geometric diagrams; the charms are believed to have the power to protect the wearer from harm.

Dimensions