

Basic Detail Report



Mola

Date

ca. 1950

Primary Maker

Guna people

Medium

dyed cotton and thread

Description

The mirrored and symmetrical pair of parrots depicted in this mola may represent another form of expression of the duality of all living things, or could also relate to the idea of metamorphosis. In Guna myths and cosmology, all beings can change from one form to another. For instance, an ordinary being can become a demon and vice versa. The mirror image of the parrots may represent the ordinary and demonic duality of the spirit. Parrots from the region may have inspired the artist or her design may stem from the Guna tradition that people are birds. A common belief is that when a Guna person decides to leave their home, they are transformed into a different bird because the experiences they encounter change the songs they sing.

Dimensions

Overall: 12 7/8 x 17 in. (32.7 x 43.2 cm)