

Basic Detail Report



Mola

Date

ca. 2013

Primary Maker

Eladia Herman

Medium

dyed cotton and thread

Description

This set of matching molas depicts a pair of crabs. Traditionally, molas were made in pairs with each design panel fit into either side of a blouse. Double panels represent the importance of duality and act as complements to one another. The multitude of colors and details reflect the intricacy of craftsmanship. Inspiration for this design may have come from the numerous crabs that inhabit the islands of Guna Yala. Crabs are significant to Guna culture because fishing is one of the major staples of the economy. It is also said that many Guna people were born under the sign of Cancer. The design may also be seen as a pair of double eagles, which is a common symbol of heraldry. The duality of the herald figure represents the union of church and state, and is most commonly associated with the Byzantine Empire. The symbol probably made its way to Panamá through European influence, especially during the period when France attempted to construct the first trans-isthmian canal.

Dimensions

Overall: 10 1/8 × 15 1/4 in. (25.7 × 38.7 cm)