

Basic Detail Report



Mola

Date

ca. 1950

Primary Maker

Guna people

Medium

dyed cotton and thread

Description

This mola depicts the importance of Guna parents teaching their children the traditions of Guna culture. The two standing figures represent parents and the figure sitting between them is their child. The extended arms of the parents may represent the act of retelling folkloric stories and myths, or providing guidance to the child, who sits and listens. The floating figure at top center symbolizes the cultural spirit of the child flying away if they do not learn the traditions or stay connected to their culture. Recent globalization of the world has introduced new customs and concepts into the Guna culture. Many boats pass through the islands trading commercialized goods and Guna children can now go to school in the metropolitan cities of Panamá. Guna elders comment that the new generations are becoming more detached from the native traditions because of their exposure to contemporary society. The theme of this mola reflects the mission of the older generation to instill the traditions of Guna culture onto their youth.

Dimensions

Overall: 12 1/2 × 17 5/8 in. (31.8 × 44.8 cm)