

Basic Detail Report



Mola

Date

after 1950

Primary Maker

Guna people

Medium

dyed cotton and thread

Description

Throughout Guna history, mola patterns have represented cultural traditions and stories. Guna women believe molas are a form of spiritual protection that keeps away negative energy. Originally patterns were made with geometric designs. This is a transitional piece that shows the evolution from traditional geometry to contemporary designs, which display more figurative imagery. The

depiction of the man with large wings on his back, a beak, and a crown reflects the belief that Guna people are bird messengers. A traditional song from the elders tells about Guna who leave their native home and upon returning are no longer the same; it is said that he has become a different type of bird. This concept applies not only to the native Guna but to all outsiders or non-Guna peoples.

Dimensions

Overall: 17 3/4 × 14 1/4 in. (45.1 × 36.2 cm)