

Basic Detail Report



Mola

Date

ca. 1950s

Primary Maker

Guna people

Medium

dyed cotton and thread

Description

The figure of a bird on top of what appears to be a human head dominates this mola. It is possible that the bird may be an egret, which has the ability to bend its long neck. Egrets and hundreds of other water birds are native to the Guna Yala region of Panamá. Multi-colored vertical lines were used to depict the bird's wings, creating the idea of feathers; similar vertical lines fill the background as well. Although the meaning of the human head is unknown, it may have been placed to show the importance of birds to the Guna, who believe that men and animals are constantly reunited through complex paths over their lifetimes.

Dimensions

Overall: 13 1/4 × 15 3/4 in. (33.7 × 40 cm)