

Basic Detail Report



Apron Clasp

Date

20th Century

Medium

Silver and turquoise

Description

To endure a cold and mountainous climate, the traditional clothing of Tibet's peoples consists of layered robes and aprons which can be modified for the weather, often adorned by a series of ornate accessories. Tibetan costumes are characterized by the extensive use of gold, silver, jade, turquoise, and coral ornaments. This particular object is a silver apron clasp worn by Tibetan women from the southern region of Shigatse. As is common for all Tibetan women, a typical outfit starts with a loose robe called a chuba; then, a rainbow-striped apron called a bangdian is wrapped around the waist and secured with a belt. Finally, a clasp such as this one is attached to the front of the waist. Gold and silver are symbols of nobility, luxury, dignity, and purity, so it is no surprise that they have made their way into most Tibetan adornments. Apron clasps such as this one vary greatly in size, with the largest ones measuring over eight inches in length and covering the entire waist.

Dimensions

4 × 8 1/4 × 1 5/8 in. (10.2 × 21 × 4.1 cm)