

Basic Detail Report



Apron

Date

mid to late 20th Century

Primary Maker

Miao

Medium

Cotton, silk, feather, Job's tears and paper

Description

This apron is most similar to some festival attire and the Hundred Bird costume. Similar paneling and feather accenting is found on both types of attire; however these similar textiles are upper garments, not aprons. No aprons

with these design features have been found, but it is possible that this apron was part of a festive ensemble. The embroidered designs on this piece seem to represent a stylized centipede. The centipede is a frequently used motif in Miao embroidery. It is often used in representations of hybrid creatures such as the centipede dragon. It is possible that such a mythical creature is represented on this apron. As many Miao embroideries are reused and sewn on different textiles, it is possible that this piece was at one time an upper garment for festival wear.

Dimensions

52 × 40 in. (132.1 × 101.6 cm)