



Textile Panel

Date

early 20th Century

Primary Maker

Miao

Medium

Cotton, silk, sequins and tin

Description

It is likely that this panel was once part of a baby carrier or apron. Miao textiles are oftentimes reworked or reused in part or in their entirety in order to create new pieces. This panel might have been reworked at one time as a pillowcase for tourist consumption, but it is also possible

that it is a woman's undergarment. It features tin embroidery. Metal embroidery is known to be a time consuming technique practiced by only a few groups of Miao people. To achieve this technique, the traditional method is as follows: prior to dying, black stitches of geometric patterns are completed. Once a textile is dyed, fine metal strips are wrapped over and under existing stitches and trimmed and crimped to be held in place. No stitches are visible on the reverse of the textile. This panel appears to also have some plastic or streamer type materials stitched in to the fabric, suggesting modern applications of the traditional technique. Additionally, the mirrors that also decorate this panel speak to the Miao's emphasis on adornment.

Dimensions

18 × 17 1/2 in. (45.7 × 44.5 cm)