

Basic Detail Report



Baby Carrier

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Miao

Medium

Silk, cotton, possibly metallic plastic thread and possibly leather sequin and trim

Description

Miao baby carriers are symbolic of love and care a mother has for her child. Baby carriers require a great deal of

time and attention to make as well as a well-developed skill in embroidery. They are normally made by girls prior to marriage, but can also be made by family members of a bride and presented to a new mother and father after a baby is one month old. This baby carrier is also missing straps. Sometimes, Miao mothers do not part with the straps of the carriers, but rather retain them as a keepsake as well as a way to symbolically to ensure the health of the child and the continuity of the family. The shiny cloth used in this skirt is a common feature of Miao textile work. It is created through a process known as calendering. As the Miao people inhabit different areas and countries, the specific materials used in calendering vary depending on the organic materials available in a specific location. The significant amount of time needed to create this shiny cloth is consistent across methods and is a testament to the Miao's attention to detail and idea of beauty.

Dimensions

32 3/4 × 33 1/4 in. (83.2 × 84.5 cm)