



Festival Jacket

Date

early to mid 20th Century

Primary Maker

Miao

Medium

Cotton, hemp, silk, beads and feathers

Description

The importance of elaborate adornments and clothing extends to Miao children as well as adults. Ensembles for infants and young children would serve as evidence of a family's wealth rather than as a means of attracting potential husbands, as is the traditional purpose of the ensembles of older girls. As early as six years old, Miao girls begin to learn the art of weaving and embroidery. The complicated arrangement of abstract and representational patterns and motifs have been practiced and adapted over centuries. As the art of textile making is instilled in each girl so has the history, beliefs and identity of the Miao people who until recently without a written language have depended in part on a system of visual language embedded and recognized in dress and adornment.

Dimensions

66 × 50 in. (167.6 × 127 cm)