



Shawl (Semba)

Date

late 19th to early 20th Century

Medium

Cotton

Description

This object is a man's shawl, or semba. In Indonesia, the spinning and dyeing of yarns and the weaving of them into cloth has been regarded as symbolic of the process of creation and is generally an exclusively female function.

Warp ikat is a traditional method of creating designs with

warp threads that have been dyed before being woven. To create a desired pattern, certain areas of the thread are tied off with dye-resistant fibers so they cannot absorb the color.

Dimensions

48 × 87 in. (121.9 × 221 cm)