

Basic Detail Report



Basket

Date

early 20th Century

Primary Maker

Pima

Medium

Plant fiber (bear grass, willow, and devil's claw)

Description

The Pima, Papago and the Apache of southern Arizona make similar basketry trays, distinguished from one another less by design than by the structural manufacture of the baskets. Whereas the Apache use willow rods as the foundation for their weaving, the Pima tend to use grass, making their trays far more flexible. The Pima are well-known for never using dyes in their weavings, the darker sections are most likely made with devil's claw. The lighter color seen here relative to the darker color of the devil's claw used by the Papago result from the differences in cultivation between the two groups. Though the designs have faded somewhat over time, the still-visible meandering patterns of the bowl appear to be a variation of the popular Pima vortex design. Staining makes it difficult to determine the pattern of the center of the tray, but often this is a circle of the darker color which represents a spring at the center of the earth from which all water flows.

Dimensions

3 5/8 × 17 1/2 in. (9.2 × 44.5 cm)