

Basic Detail Report



Rug

Date

c. 1910

Primary Maker

Navajo

Medium

Dyed wool

Description

This is a Ganado-area textile, likely originally sold through the trading post of Juan Lorenzo Hubbell. Though he was not the first trader in the region, Hubbell was the first to heavily influence the designs of the weavers he bought from in the areas surrounding his Ganado trading post. Where later traders like J.B. Moore took from Oriental designs, Hubbell drew on older Navajo ones. Small watercolor paintings of these rugs made from examples already in East Coast Collections, were brought to weavers to replicate. As for the swastika motif, despite its modern connotations it has been an auspicious symbol for at least thousands of years. For the Navajo, it was a figurative representation of the 'whirling logs,' a commonly depicted sand painting from the Night Chant and together with an axis with two legs—where the swastika instead has four—forms a visual pun of the Navajo mantra, "successfully attaining a ripe old age by daily spiritual renewal according to the universal beauty of the cosmos."

Dimensions

76 1/2 × 48 1/4 × 1/4 in. (194.3 × 122.6 × 0.6 cm)