

# Basic Detail Report

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## Bandeau

**Date**

mid 20th Century

**Medium**

Cotton and elastic

**Description**

This is a bandeau worn by the donor, or the donor's sister, during a ceremonial dance on the opening day of the Palau Museum Men’s Meeting House in 1969. Historically, the women of Palau presented themselves topless as the women’s breasts were emphasized for their nursing capabilities. The act of topless presentation is influenced by a woman’s clan status or a direction from her immediate family members. Sometime before the mid 20th century, as a result of western influence, Palauan women started to cover their bare breasts as an act of modesty. Traditionally, bandeaus are made from raw materials sourced from the island; such as coconut shells, woven Pandanus leaves or turtle shells. The bandeau presented here would not be considered traditional as it made from elastic bands and features indigo colored fabric.

**Dimensions**

6 × 12 × 1 1/2 in. (15.2 × 30.5 × 3.8 cm)