

# Basic Detail Report

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## Textile

**Date**

20th Century

**Primary Maker**

Lao

**Medium**

Cotton and silk

**Description**

These textiles were used as clothing, blankets, hangings and also for a variety of ceremonial purposes. Such textiles have different categories, such as the pa biang in Laos, yet are woven using the same techniques. Textiles such as the pa biang are primarily a scarf or shawl, mostly made of cotton or silk. The varying colors of these textiles are a result of ikat or mat mi technique, which is commonly used in Southeast Asia. Ikat, meaning “to bind,” is a dyeing technique used to create patterns with dye prior to weaving the fabric. Once the ikat process is complete, the weavers then utilize the warp and weft technique to create the textile. The warp threads are woven vertically whereas the weft threads are woven horizontally, interlacing the warp to create embroidered decoration. Although the Laotian textiles vary by region, designs primarily contain intricate motifs, such as the classic hook called lai koh, stylized animals or abstract anthropomorphic figures. These textiles are typically worn as a shawl, scarf, table runner or hangings.

**Dimensions**

33 1/2 × 80 in. (85.1 × 203.2 cm)