



Hunting-style chigdaġ (gut parka)

Date

Early 20th Century

Primary Maker

Artist not recorded

Medium

Seal gut, wool yarn

Description

Hooded parka; intestines of a sea mammal for the body. Decorated with strands of red and blue wool yarns removed from a trade blanket. Sleeve hems and hood edging reinforced with red or blue dyed esophagus strips. "I can imagine a woman patiently at work sewing this seal [gut] parka. ... Her stitches are even and meticulously neat, a skill she likely learned through daily practice and under close observation from a more advanced

seamstress, maybe her mother, grandma, or aunt. ... Working with skins or gut skins and transforming them into well-made clothing is a work of love, and women took care that their work was not only functional but also handsomely made. Making every piece as beautiful as it can be honors the animals that gave up their lives to clothe and feed a community and also shows pride in a woman's work and care for her family." — Nadia Jackinsky-Sethi (Alutiiq) (from exhibition label text, 2023).

Dimensions

H 59" x W 70.5" x D 4.5 Waist: 66"