

Basic Detail Report



Hooked Rug

Date

Late 1920s–early 1930s

Primary Maker

Celso Gallegos

Medium

Wool, burlap (likely jute)

Description

Design is of native animals with a tree form at center. Colors: yellow, black, shades of magenta, soft green, putty and red. Celso Gallegos lived in the village of Agua Fria, just west of Santa Fe and was a devout man from rural Northern New Mexico who innovated older traditions and experimented with new ideas, materials, and artistic forms. He achieved wide acclaim in his lifetime, likely due to his close proximity to Santa Fe, his preferred medium of woodcarving, and his promotion by the newly formed Spanish Colonial Arts Society. Today, Gallegos is best known as a santero. He won first prize for santo carving at the inaugural Spanish Market held in 1926. However, he also created textiles. A profile published by *El Pasatiempo* on September 5, 1931 reported that Gallegos had “developed an amusing line of embroideries in colored yarns, on burlap, using his favorite figures of animals and saints.” These textiles were created with materials supplied by the Spanish Colonial Arts Society and sold through its shop at Sena Plaza in Santa Fe. For this textile, Gallegos adapted a rug hooking technique more commonly used in the eastern United States, a sign of the Southwest’s increasing cultural integration into the nation.

Dimensions

36 1/4 × 63 × 3/8 in. (92 × 160 × 1 cm)