

Basic Detail Report



Embroidery

Date

before 1931

Primary Maker

Policarpio Valencia

Medium

Cotton

Description

Valencia's abstract and improvisational embroidery completely obscures the striped fabric underneath. This commercial machine-woven textile may have originally

served as a tablecloth in the Valencia home. Along one border, Valencia stitched the phrase "sobremesa antigua," meaning literally "old tablecloth." However, "sobremesa" is also an idiomatic phrase that can refer to "delightful conversation," as one enjoys while sitting around a dinner table with friends and family after a shared meal. The juxtaposition of meanings in his inscription "sobremesa antigua," implying "old delightful conversation," reflects Valencia's love of wordplay, but it could also be understood as a commentary on changing norms. In his embroidered messages, Valencia often describes his intention to record for "future memory" elements of cultural life fast disappearing. He also warns against vices, like envy and ambition, that could lead to social disharmony. Transcription: April 2, 1925, I started putting white thread on this blanket on which you will see a certain collection of animals, some of which are already rare for our times and others which [still] exist now for domestic use, but I have pictured those animals here to be remembered. Those [animals] that served mankind in the past were the buffalo, the horse, the donkey, the mule and the ox, the sheep and goat, the bison (with its meat that sustained the people). The donkey the mule, carrying loads of commercial goods on its back to trade, traveling over long distances and over mountains. They were mishandled or mistreated with a whip. The ox pulling in front with a pole tied to its horns. This was a yoke. Two [oxen] were bound to the yoke, and they were driven with a cattle prod. This was a pointed stick. The man on his horse, with his courage and a lance in his hand, made use of the buffalo. And the sheep and the goat, with their hair and hide, they would clothe their masters, and, with their meat and milk, fed the people. August 20, 1925, these blue letters give you the names of animals depicted on this blanket. By paying close attention, you will find bison, bears, wolves, deer, pronghorn, lion, birds, camel, pig, coyotes, foxes, skunks, cattle, oxen, calves, donkeys, mule hybrid, sheep, and goats. Also plow and winnowing screen, handbarrow, implements used in earlier times. stag, doe, pronghorn buck, pronghorn doe, donkey, cow, pig, female donkey, little donkey winnowing screen plow cattle prod handbarrow bison, wolf, nanny goat, billy goat, sheep, hens she-mule, little lamb, ox, lion, bear, camel, little mule, donkey, coyote, cow, calf, he-mule Policarpio Valencia Transcripción: Abril 2 del año de 1925[,] comencé a poner hilo blanco en esta cobija en la cual verá ud cierta colección de

animales[,] de los cuales ya barios son raros en esta época y otros existen ahora en uso doméstico[,] pero llo he fi gurado ayi animales para recuerdo fotoro[.] Los que prestaron serbisio al hombre anteriormente fueron el síbolo[,] el caballo[,] el buro[,] la mula y el buey[,] y la borrega y cabra[,] el sibolo con su carne surtia la nasion. El buro[,] la mula[,] con carga en el espinaso cambiando objetos comerciales de distansia muy larga y por sieras caminaban[.] Y manejados o tratados mal con garote[.] Y el bu[e]y jalando primero con un palo atado a los cuernos[.] Era llugo[.] Dos priendian al lluso[,] y les picaban con un topil[.] Era una bara puntiada[.] El hombre en el caballo[,] con su balor y una lansa en su mano[,] asi a uso del sibolo[.] Y la borega y la cabra[,] con su pelo y cuero[,] y vestian a sus amos y con su carne y leches[,] se alimenta la nasion[.] Agosto 10 de 1925[,] esta letra azul le da a ud los nombres de animales que se allan fi gurados en esta cobija[.] Poniendo buen cuidado[,] allaran sibolo[,] osos[,] lobos[,] bennados[,] berendos[,] lion[,] abes[,] camello[,] serdo[,] collotes[,] soras[,] sorio[,] bacas[,] buelles[,] beseros[,] buros[,] bestias mulares [,] boregas[,] y cabras[.] Tambien arado y criba[,] pariguela[,] material que se usaba antes[.] benado[,] benada[,] verendo[,] berenda[,] buro[,] vaca[,] serdo[,] vuba[,] vurito criba arado topil pariguela sibolo[,] lobo[,] cabra[,] cabromeso[,] vereda[,] gayinas mula[,] boregito[,] vuelle[,] lion[,] oso[,] camello[,] machito [,] buro[,] collote[,] vaca[,] vesero[,] macho Policarpio Valencia

Dimensions

(not specified): 53 15/16 x 47 1/4 in. (137 x 120 cm)