

# Basic Detail Report

---



## Woman's weave marriage cloth, "alara" ("something wonderful")

### Date

ca. 1920-1940s

### Primary Maker

Artist not recorded

### Medium

Cotton, indigo dye

### Description

Indigo dyed, heavy handspun cotton cloth woven by women on upright single heddle looms. Two panels with

supplementary weft float motifs (stylized animals, koran writing boards). The finished cloth has been overdyed to lessen the contrast. Rare regional style of woman's marriage cloth, distinctive to the town of Esie. In anticipation of weddings, a mother would weave a series of five named marriage cloths for her daughter. "Alara" is the last and most prestigious variety, only made within the wealthiest or most skilled weaving families. This practice disappeared after the 1960s.

### Dimensions

67 11/16 × 53 1/8 × 1/4 in. (172 × 135 × 0.6 cm)