



Married woman's dress

Date

ca. 1974

Primary Maker

Donlhany Bai

Medium

Cotton, silk, glass beads, lead beads, mirrors, metal

Description

When a Banjara woman marries, she has the right to wear a dress that marks her as a married woman. The backless blouse with its pairs of flaps, ornamented with tassels with lead and glass beads, on the shoulders and chest identify her as such. It is heavily adorned with mirrors, tassels, and beads. If she becomes widowed or divorced, she can no longer wear this blouse with its flaps. Her three sets of armlets worn at her elbows which she first wore as a bride, combine yarn tassels, cowrie shells, and lead and glass beads (The Art and Tradition of Beadwork, Marsha C. Bol, pg. 80-81).