



Wool-on-cotton Colcha Embroidery

Date

ca. 1840-1865

Primary Maker

Artist not recorded

Medium

Cotton, wool, natural dyes, including cochineal

Description

Colcha embroidery, wool on commercial cotton ground. Floral motifs in yellows and tans, white, blues, and browns. Five separate borders of floral motifs surround the center motif of seven prancing deer. By the time New Mexico became a United States Territory in 1848, commercial cotton cloth, fine plied yarn, and other goods were widely available, sent by caravans along the Santa Fe Trail. Colcha embroiderers embraced the new materials

to create compositions with scattered motifs, leaving more ground fabric visible. As seen here, they also incorporated new designs inspired by a greater variety of imports, including calico cotton prints (paisleys) and crewelwork from the eastern United States (leaping deer).

Dimensions

83 7/16 × 55 1/8 in. (212 × 140 cm)