



Embroidery

Date

1927

Primary Maker

Policarpio Valencia

Medium

Wool, cotton

Description

Valencia used a handwoven Rio Grande blanket for the foundation of this artwork. The blanket is woven with handspun wool wefts and commercial 4-ply cotton warp threads, construction details that suggest a creation date between the 1880s and 1920s. Like most blankets of its type, this one is two symmetrical pieces joined by a center seam. The two sides, however, do not match as was typical. It appears Valencia may have flipped one of

the sides to intentionally disrupt the traditional symmetry. Valencia’s embroidered text begins, “On December 15, 1926 I put these letters / for everyone to see.” At the bottom, he provided March 10, 1927 as the completion date, meaning it took him approximately three months to create this work. He also humorously concluded his message, “I’m not cheap with words.” Transcription: On December 15, 1926, I put these letters for everyone to see. Let us look at what the world is [really] like. We must look out for ourselves. We must not be caught off guard and go towards evil. For we have a Shepherd who always walks with us and shows us the way. We must not take the other path. Let us put aside all the fighting, envy, hypocrisy. The three things are not only very bad but pervasive. If you want to see their effects, here I will take note of them. Appearances deceive. Envy is punished. Whether I say it or not, no one can deny this. And the uproar [it causes] serves to start the fight that I hereby call attention to. And I encourage everyone who touches this writing to carefully examine it, and to see if its explanation is true or false, among other harmful things. Here I will explain pride and arrogance. You cannot separate the two. Both were curable since the beginning of evil. No wonder they ranked them first in pure madness. Secondly, greed. That we will not be cheated is the major cause and will have no end until the moment of Last Judgement. Thirdly, lust. Generally, this occurs as a vice that drips like honey. If you don’t curb it, it will change the color of your character with hidden effects more bitter than bile. Fourth place, wrath makes man into a tyrant to inferiors, which is already typical of animals, because it is not human affection. Gluttony has a scale, and to avoid its effects, temperance should be used. Envy brings with it crookedness and punishment. Sloth is a disease as bad as death, so there is no place for the lazy in any society. Let us move on to another important issue. All those living on this earth are constantly wanting to outdo one

another. They continue their perseverance, and the result will be that neither one nor the other will succeed if the time comes to lose hope. Because time is a good friend, and everyone has a chance. And I'm going to explain to you the world that we want; the world is shaped like a ball and easy to roll. This is how it is in the evil case where people in the world rise and fall. Each one, exercising their free will, chooses their own path and will have to go down it. Because life is very short and cannot be extended on this earth. There are people who want us to hold on, but that can never happen. There's a limit, and you cannot pass it. Because He who has the key does not want to trust those who believe in extending life here on earth. It cannot be proven, because it is a general belief, and the laws protect it. The people of the world cannot be wiped out like fish in the sea. The big one eats the little one and it is a world war. Others also insist on wanting there to be equality, and with there being big ones and little ones, that is a necessity. We all have what we have coming to us in this world. Everyone is entitled to what he deserves and that's enough. In this world, there is no equal nor anyone who can raise his finger alone. The Trinity shaped a true God to be among the living. In our time, no one wants to be the slave. We all want to be masters, and we always go after everything we want. Everyone should know their size in life, otherwise they will go through it looking for a fight. I don't know why. You cannot revise this painting knowing that no one can change it. That's how it is and that's how it will be. I'm not cheap with words. March 10, 1927 Policarpio Valencia Santa Cruz, NM Transcripción: Diciembre 15 de 1926[,] me puse a poner estas letras a di... disposicion de todos[,] Beamos lo que es el mundo[,] Nos debemos de cuidar[,] No nos pesquen descuidados y nos ballamos al mal[,] Pues tenemos un pastor que siempre anda con nosotros y este nos trajo un camino[,] No debemos hir por otro[,] Dejemos los alborotos[,] envidia[,] el proquesia[,] Las tres cosas son muy malas mas si son endema[,] Si asi quieren ber sus efetos[,] aquí los boy a notar las[,] Apariensias engañan[,] Y la enbidia se castiga[,] Nadyen lo puede dudar esto sin que yo lo diga[,] Y los alboro los sirben para prensipiar la riña aqui llamo la atension[,] Y encargo a todo le torque en este escrito y fuere que esa mi ni con cuidado y bea su esplicasion si es sierto o es engaño y otras cosas que ase daño [,] Aqui las boy a esplicar el orgullo y la soberbia[,] No se podan apartar pues los dos[,] Fueron curables desde el prensipio del mal[,] Y con rason la pusieron primero en loca pura[,] Y en segundo la abarisia[,] Que no nos gantaran mal pues la malloria causa y no se podrá acabar hasta llegar el momento dando la cuenta fi nal[,] En tersero la lojuria[,] Esta cure general es bisio que estila miel[,] Si no se le pone freno cambia de color la piel y otros efetos ocultos mas amargan que la hiel[,] Cuarto lugar la ira esta hase al hombre un tirano de inferiores y de cuales la lla es propia de animales porque no es afeto umano[,] La gula tiene balansa y para ebitar sus efetos sea de uso de la templanza[,] Y la enbidia tiene consigo su torsedos y cas tgo. Pereza es enfermedad tan mala como la muerte así no cabe el ynerte en ningunas sociedad[,] Pasaremos a otro asunto que también es importansia[,] Los bibientes en el mundo todos biben con costansia queriendo uno ser mas que otro[,] Siguen su perseveransia y el resultado sera que ni uno ni otro se alcansar si a llegar el momento de perdder la esperanza[,] Porque el tiempo es buen amigo y pa todos tiene chansa[,] Y del mundo que se disea que les boy a explicar[,] el mundo fi gura bola y muy fasil para rodar[,] Asi es en el mal caso las donde subir y bajar las criaturas en el mundo[,] Usa de su libertad cada una acaba su rumbo y en el tendran que pasar[,] Porque la bida es muy corta y no se puede alargar en el mundo[,] Hay quien se atreve a querien nos la araigar pero eso nunca podran[,] Pusieron una amedida y no se puede pasar[,] Porque el que tiene la llave y a nadien la quiere fi arlos que crellen a la largar la bida aquí en este mundo[,] No se les pordra pribar pues es crensia es general y las leyes la

protegen[.] Y no se puede acabar los vivientes en el mundo como peses en el mar[.] El grande se come al chico y es una guerra mundial[.] Otros enstisten tambien en querer que hayga ygualidad y abiendo grandes y chicos eso es un necesidad[.] Las criaturas en el mundo todos tenemos la norma[.] Lo que a cada uno le toca y con eso se conforma en el mundo no hay igual ni quien pueda alzar el dedo solo[.] Aquellas tres personas formando un dios berdadero sebe que lla en los bibien- Es[.] En la epoca que estamos nadien quiere ser el pion[.] Todos queremos ser ammos[,] y siempre andamos atrás de todo lo que desiamos[.] Dicada uno conosiera su tamaño en esta vida de otro modo la pasara y no buscando la riña[.] No se porque [.] No se puede rebise esa pintura sabiendo que Nadien puede añadir[.] Asi es y asi sera[.] Un codo no soi de la escritura yo[.] marso 10 de 1927 el Policarpio Valencia Santa Crus N.M. TDNO

Dimensions

59 1/16 × 41 5/16 in. (150 × 105 cm)