



Mascarilla

Date

2021

Primary Maker

Olinda Silvano Inuma de Arias

Medium

Cotton, ink, elastic, plastic clips, thread

Description

Detailed cotton face mask. Orange, black. Made for COVID-19 pandemic. The dynamic geometric designs of the Shipibo-Konibo are known as kené, based on the snake of

their creation story. The lines represent rivers and mountains, and the shapes embody animals of their Amazonian ancestral homelands. The lines and shapes on this mask were “sung” by artist/activist Olinda Silvano as they were stitched in thread. These masks are a symbol of the high COVID-19 infection and mortality rates in Silvano’s urban Shipibo-Konibo community, Cantagallo, in Lima. At the same time, the kené designs are a testament to Shipibo-Konibo resilience, as Cantagallo has endured the pandemic, a destructive fire in 2016, and years of displacement, dispossession, and discrimination (from exhibition label text).

Dimensions

13.97H x 2.54W x 15.24D cm 5 1/2H x 1W x 6D in