



Child's nigraligaaq (fancy parka)

Date

late 19th–early 20th century

Primary Maker

Artist Not Recorded

Medium

Arctic ground squirrel, wolf, wolverine, hide, wool felt

Description

“Fancy parkas,” made of whole Arctic ground squirrel skins and heavily decorated with wolverine dangles and trim, are found throughout Alaska. Historically, a U-shaped hem signified a woman’s parka while men’s parkas had straight hems. Today, most women’s parkas also have straight hems. Each year in late April, when squirrels tunnel out from their winter dens, women set snares at den entrances, cleaned and skinned each day’s catch, and strung them together in a “bundle.” Squirrel

meat not eaten by the women and their dogs was dried and carried home (from exhibition label text). Almost identical to FA.74.42.1. It has tassels on shoulders and back, with U-shaped hem. No trim at cuffs. Ruff is likely wolf, lower hem is likely wolverine. There are tufts of red and brown along bottom border and in the diagonal pieced decorative stripes on front.

Dimensions

H 38.5" x W 31" x D 6" Chest: 28"