



Child's coat

Date

1922

Primary Maker

Artist not recorded

Medium

Reindeer, flour sack cotton, beaver, wolf, walrus ivory

Description

The unique spot pattern of reindeer parkas was highly prized and often entered into trade-fair competitions. More commonly used in parkas during the twentieth century, reindeer hides were traded with Siberian herders before reindeer husbandry was introduced to Alaska in 1892. Like caribou, reindeer hide is extremely warm and has been used for pullover-style parkas throughout Arctic

regions. The child's reindeer fawn coat with walrus ivory buttons is a modern design commissioned in 1922 for the daughter of a U.S. military officer stationed at Fort Seward. The coat hood is made from the fawn's head and, typical of children's parkas, the fawn's ears remain attached (from exhibition label text). Material identifications by parka maker Bobby Brower (Inupiaq) and reindeer herder Bonnie Scheele (Inupiaq), August 2021. Ivory buttons confirmed by St Lawrence Island ivory carver Jason Iya, September 2022. Brown and white spotted reindeer fur on body, sleeves and hood except around face. Face ruff is wolf. Sleeve and bottom trim is beaver. Felt-like flour sack lining beneath animal skin inside arms, body and hood. 4 ivory buttons (round) on each side.

Dimensions

H 26" x W 32" x D 7" Chest: 30"