

Basic Detail Report



Mola

Date

ca. 1960

Primary Maker

Guna people

Medium

dyed cotton and thread

Description

A complete family of manta rays is depicted in this mola.

The male is on the left, with its longer tail for defense, and the female on the right, with the baby ray at the bottom. In modern Guna culture this imagery references the afterlife. When a fisherman dies, the manta rays of the afterlife transform into a boat that will take the fisherman to the places he always wanted to see while he was alive. The amount of wishes he is granted is based on the number of fish he caught in his lifetime. This story reflects the idealistic beliefs of Guna cosmology. The technical skill of this mola including the use of color and fine stitches is extraordinary.

Dimensions

Overall: 15 3/4 x 20 1/2 in. (40 x 52.1 cm)