



Hair Headdress

Date
1470-1532

Primary Maker
Inca

Medium
llama wool, dye and human hair

Description
The base of this ceremonial headdress is a skullcap made of llama wool, with about four pounds of human hair attached. The hair is woven into 160 braids that hang in two tiers, the longest measuring over a yard in length. In ancient times it was worn only by a high priest during

religious services. The significance of hair, which is believed to have a vital link with the life force, dates back to at least the Moche Period (1-700). Among the Inca, a child was not named until after an elaborate ceremony involving hair-cutting. In Peru, modern shamans continue to make use of hair in their curing ceremonies.

Dimensions
Overall: 46 in. (116.8 cm)