

A Seneca Bag at the Fenimore  
Art Museum

Barb Manchee

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DATE: 1840

IDENTIFIER: T0672

**DESCRIPTION:** Bags dating from the first half of the 19th century provide a rich overview of Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) beadwork. Around 1800, Haudenosaunee (Iroquoian) women began to make beaded bags for sale to non-Natives, primarily travellers and tourists. Older quill-worked traditions of geometric and curvilinear elements such as double curves and scrolls were translated in beads. Many bags have simple geometric patterns, but others seem to refer to cosmological symbolism. The four cardinal directions frequently appear in the beadwork. Other designs are abstract, suggesting dream or vision-inspired experiences.

**PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS:** height 9.5 in ; width 7 in

**FORMAT:** Bag

**COVERAGE:** New York ; Seneca (Haudenosaunee)


[American Indian Art](#)









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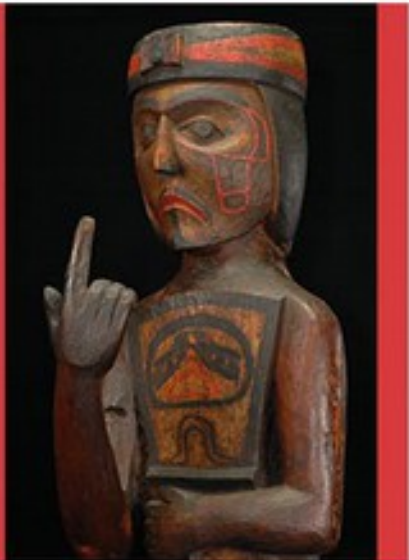


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# American Indian Art from the Fenimore Art Museum: The Thaw Collection

*on view at*  
**The Metropolitan Museum of Art**  
**May 9 – October 8, 2017**

TRAVELING EXHIBITION



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[Collections Management Policy \(July 2013\)](#)

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