



## Pre-columbian Embroidered Cloth, Nazca Culture, 200 Bc - 600 Ad

8 500 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Linen



### Description

Cloth Adorned with Bird Motifs  
Culture: Nazca,  
200 BCE - 600 CE  
Materials: Textile fibers  
(cotton and camelid wool)  
Techniques: Weaving,  
polychrome embroidery  
Dimensions: 134 cm x 45  
cm  
Excellent condition  
Provenance: Munoz  
Collection, 1950s-60s  
Berjonneau  
Collection  
M.C. Gallery, Paris  
Comparable  
Works: Cotton mantle with a similar weave: MET,  
inv. 1980.233.2; 1979.206.889  
Bird iconography:  
see geoglyphs  
Bowl with bird motifs, motif  
repetition: MET, inv. 1970.245.21; inv.  
1979.206.385; inv. 1994.35.61; inv. 64.228.71;  
inv. 1970.246.3; inv. 63.112.2  
British Museum:  
Am 1954,05.779  
This object is a remarkable  
example of the textile art of the Nazca  
civilization, which flourished on the southern  
coast of Peru between 200 BCE and 600 CE.

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Made from cotton fibers and camelid wool (llama or alpaca), it features a rich embroidered iconography dominated by stylized bird motifs. The depicted birds, often identified as hummingbirds, condors, or frigatebirds, are shown in dynamic postures with outstretched wings and are sometimes associated with mythological elements. The vibrant color palette, including red and ochre, showcases the Nazca artisans' mastery of natural dyes. These colors are also found in Nazca ceramic productions. In Nazca culture, textiles were highly valued and played an essential role in funerary rites. Bird motifs are often interpreted as symbols of transcendence and passage to the afterlife, linked to shamanic beliefs and fertility. These embroidered textiles have been primarily found in the Cahuachi region, a major ceremonial center of the Nazca culture. Due to the arid desert conditions, many textiles have been exceptionally well preserved.