



PROANTIC  
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

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

12 000 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Linen



Description	Dealer
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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.M.C. Gallery, Paris

Comparable Works:

Cotton mantle with a similar weave: MET, inv.

1980.233.2; 1979.206.889

Bird iconography: see geoglyphs

ES Works of Art

Haute époque, antiquités

Mobile : 0677286074

sur rendez-vous

Paris 75018

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: Am1954,05.779

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. 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.