



Date:

1890

Identifier:

T0858

Description:

Coils of deer grass are tightly stitched together with sedge root to form the foundation for the rattlesnake design executed in bracket fern root and redbud on this superb bowl. The bands of diamonds on the body of the basket recall the patterning seen on rattlesnakes, making reference to the importance of the rattlesnake in local tradition. Baskets play a leading role in many California traditional stories attesting to their cultural importance. In one widely shared creation story, the ancestors emerge from womb like baskets. And in a Yokuts tale, Coyote, an infamous trickster, poked his head through an old basket and mocked it – and the basket choked him to death.

Physical dimensions:

height 9.5 in ; diameter 21.5 in

Format:

Bowl

Coverage:

Central California

American Indian Art

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