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ceinture fléchée

The arrowhead sash is one of the most recognizable symbols of Quebec's cultural heritage. Handwoven from colored wool yarn, it is characterized by its geometric arrow-shaped patterns. Originally, it served practical purposes: to hold winter clothing in place and protect the back while traveling. It is particularly associated with travelers, coureurs des bois, and fur traders. Its production requires special technical skill since it is made without a traditional loom. Over time, it has become a sign of cultural belonging and identity. Its aesthetic stems from the intersection of European traditions and North American realities. Like other belts around the world, it transcends its utilitarian function to become a collective emblem. It serves as a reminder that textile objects are often living archives of social history. The arrowhead belt is thus a woven narrative as much as it is a garment.