



Tapestry - Boy Punk

Object: Tapestry

Place of origin: England, Britain (made)

Date: 1980 (made)

Artist/Maker: Bahouth, Candace (maker)

Materials and Techniques: Tapestry, woven, with applied fabric, nylon bristles, pin badges, safety pins and metal chains, other mixed media and found objects, in fabric covered frame

Museum number: T.55A-1985

Gallery location: In Storage

Public access description

Candace Bahouth studied Fine Art at Syracuse University in the USA and tapestry weaving under the tutelage of Archie Brennan in Edinburgh. Bahouth produces large and small scale tapestries, exploring the contemporary trend towards smaller, less monumental work. This trend was reflected in the brief for the first tapestry biennale in Lausanne in 1962, which stated that all exhibits were restricted to a minimum size of five metres square. Figurative rather than abstract imagery continued to attract many weavers in the 20th century and Bahouth is no exception. Self expression and presentation are extremely important in the subjects featured in her weaving and she tends to concentrate on individuals that represent their culture or sub culture by the clothes they wear, their hairstyle, make up and jewellery. Girl Punk and Boy Punk demonstrate how Bahouth often depicts a character whose appearance plays an integral role in their society. Her weaving concentrates on the figure, which she then brings to life in relief using trompe l'oeil effects, adding a mixture of appropriate accessories and warp-woven fabrics. The subjects in Girl Punk and Boy Punk were first seen by the artist in a tea shop in Bath.

Descriptive line

Knotted and woven tapestry 'Boy Punk', made by Candace Bahouth, London, 1980.

Physical description

Knotted and woven tapestry depicting a male punk. The face and 'ripped' T shirt are knotted into the tapestry. The sitter has an 'A' for Anarchy between his eyes. The three-dimensional hair is yellow and green nylon bristles styled into spikes. Heavy metal chain applied to make necklace, held together with safety pin, also chain of safety pins connecting nose and ear. T-shirt has tapestry weave slogans 'PUNK', 'RESPECT' and a swastika, and is decorated with numerous badges and 3 safety pins, one with a razor blade threaded on it, one with a number of drinks can ring-pulls, and one with a disposable plastic spoon. The badges bear a wide variety of slogans and designs, mainly referring to punk bands and figures such as 'The Clash', Sid Vicious, and 'Flux Of Pink Indians'. Frame custom-made and covered in a stylized camouflage print fabric.

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Object history note

Purchased. Registered File number 1985/2.

URL

<http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O140679/tapestry-boy-punk/>

