

Basic Detail Report



Title Needlework Picture

Date 1661

Primary Maker Fox Family

Medium Hand-stitched embroidery; silk thread, metallic thread, chenille yarn, seashells, mica, beads, and seed pearls on satin-woven silk

Description Needlework picture worked in dark brown, medium brown, blue, green and cream silk thread, chenille yarn, wire and metallic threads, shells, mica, beads, pearls, and paint on a cream-colored satin-woven silk ground. The picture is embroidered using a raised work technique, consisting of a raised and padded design. The embroidery uses chain stitch, satin stitch and other stitches. The needlework picture is rectangular, oriented horizontally. It depicts a man holding a spear next to a woman wearing a pearl necklace; both are wearing

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seventeenth century costume. Between the man and the woman is a bird on a tree branch above a small vase. To the right of the woman is a second woman also wearing a pearl necklace. To the left of the man is a second man standing beneath an oak tree. In the foreground is a small grotto and pond containing at least two fish. To the left of the pond is a lion; to the right of the pond is a unicorn. In the top background are two tents, a sun, and a castle with mica windows; each of these is located below a blue sky. The background of the needlework picture is filled in with flowers, trees, birds and insects. The design is highlighted with colored paint (an eighteenth century addition): the turquoise blue of the sky at the top; the bright pink of the central man's cloak and the central woman's dress. The needlework picture is constructed of hand-stitched figures that are applied over wool padding to the silk ground. The ground shown in the design is formed with chenille yarn. Additional embellishments include metallic thread, wire coils, mica, and shells. The ground is whip-stitched to linen that is joined to a wooden backing. The needlework picture is behind glass (replaced) inside a wooden frame (later addition). Stitches: The sampler includes the following stitches: chain, satin, couching, boullion, buttonhole, tent, and whip. Condition: The ground has been repaired using darning stitches. Some mica has broken off of the pond. The wool stuffing is exposed on the unicorn. The glass and frame are replaced; the embroidery has been cleaned. The back board is screwed into the frame.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width): 19 x 23 3/8in. (48.3 x 59.4cm)