

Basic Detail Report

Title Hand-held Fire Screen

Date about 1778-1780

Primary Maker Prudence Punderson

Medium Embroidery; silk thread on a plain-woven silk ground, wood

Description Fire screen consisting of a shaped plain-woven silk screen decorated with hand-stitched silk embroidery and supported by a hand-held wooden handle. The firescreen is worked in pink, white, green, black, brown, and light blue silk thread on a plain-woven dark green silk ground, using satin stitch and other stitches. One side of the firescreen is decorated with two birds, each over a small spray of flowers; this is surrounded by a circular wreath of purple grapes or berries on a vine. The opposite side is decorated with twelve sprays of flowers on a short stem. The firescreen is constructed of a stiff board, or paper, between the two green silk sides of the screen; these layers are joined at the edge by hand-stitched light blue, bias-cut fabric binding. The wooden handle is constructed of a single piece of wood with a slit to support the screen; the upper portion of the handle has two nails to join the screen to the handle. Stitches: The principal stitch on the firescreen is satin; it also includes encroaching satin, outline and flat. Condition: There are a few very small holes in each side of the firescreen. The binding and handle are replaced.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height including handle x width): 15 3/16 x 10 3/4in. (38.6 x 27.3cm)