

**Name:** Gambian Dance

**Collection:** Celebrating Art and Supporting Artisanhip

**Cultures:** Turkey, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Mali, India, Gambia

This handmade tribal art necklace comprises a variety of cultures and carries, between its beads & threads, historical evidence of a world on the verge of extinction.

The base of this necklace is Uzbek. It is woven by hand, creating typical rainbows of alternating colors along a solid cord.

The crochet flowers are Turkish oyas, or handmade lace flowers from the region of Anatolia. Anatolian women are well-known for their beautiful oyas, often adorning the rims of scarves and clothes in the country.

The triangular fabric piece is a vintage hand-embroidered amulet from Afghanistan. Such pieces of textiles have historically been sewn to clothing or attached at home doors, and have hid, within them, a variety of protective prayers. Triangles are prized for their protective powers in most cultures. The triangular glass bead above it is also from Afghanistan. These beads in particular, made with colored glass, sometimes carry the names of prophets of Islam or one of God's ninety-nine names as spelled out in the Quran.

The tassel under them is made by Rabari women. The Rabaris are a nomadic tribe roaming the North-Western desert of India. They are well-known for their spectacular, colorful textiles and beautiful silver. This tassel is 40 to 60 years old and originally adorned a traditional dowry bag.

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The fabric on top was originally part of a vintage Indian blouse. It must be around 30-50 years old. They are handmade by Rabari women, well known for their superior and colorful embroidery, the blouse was worn only on occasions and roughly by the wealthy. The mirrors on top are known as shishas, because they shine and reflect the light, mirrors are believed to protect from the evil eye.

The metal piece is a vintage brass amulet, hand-forged by local forgers in Gambia. On top of it is a cowry shell from the Indian Ocean. Because of their shapes, cowry shells are believed to protect from the evil eye and to promote fertility. It is no wonder that they are therefore planted on scarves, clothes, home accessories, animal wear, etc.

On the other side is a Tuareg leather tassel. The Tuareg are a largely nomadic tribe roaming the Sahara in West Africa. They are quite famous for their silver and leatherwork.

In a world of technology, globalization, and consumerism, this necklace stands as a call for authenticity, uniqueness, distinction and culture. This necklace is for you, the woman who can communicate the kinship stories, our ancestor's stories, but also the woman who appreciates beauty and cherishes her originality. It is entirely handmade and is a one-of-a-kind piece, just like you.

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