

Name: Hmong Ceremony

Collection: Celebrating Art and Supporting Artisanship

Cultures: Vietnam, Egypt, Yemen, Thailand, India, the Levant

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 made with sterling silver from Egypt.

The coins are antique Ottoman. They were once attached to the scarf of a Bedouin woman, somewhere in the Levant, around 150 years ago. Women from the region always preferred to carry their riches on their bodies –both to show off, protect their money and preserve their independence.

The tassels are 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. These tassels are 40 to 60 years old and they originally adorned traditional dowry bags.

The triangular pieces, on the other hand, are Hmong pieces from Thailand. Such pieces of textiles have historically been used as amulets and hid, within them, a variety of protective prayers. Triangles are prized for their protective powers in most cultures.

The centerpiece is a vintage White Hmong applique fabric from a belt from Vietnam. This piece was found with a woman in Hanoi who collects old pieces from the country's rural areas to preserve her culture. There is only one version of this piece. It is attached to this necklace and you own it.

The Yemeni metal beads are around 60 to 80 years old and they come from a larger bridal necklace. Today, these beads are increasingly rare to find, as they belong to a world that disappeared with the latest wars in the region.

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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