



## Woman's nigralgaaq (fancy parka)

### Date

late 19th–early 20th century

### Primary Maker

Artist not recorded

### Medium

Arctic ground squirrel, wolf, wolverine, hide, wool felt

### Description

"Fancy parkas," made of whole Arctic ground squirrel skins and heavily decorated with wolverine dangles and trim, are found throughout Alaska. Historically, a U-shaped hem signified a woman's parka while men's parkas had straight hems. Today, most women's parkas also have straight hems. Each year in late April, when

squirrels tunnel out from their winter dens, women set snares at den entrances, cleaned and skinned each day's catch, and strung them together in a "bundle." Squirrel meat not eaten by the women and their dogs was dried and carried home. (from exhibition label text).

### Dimensions

H 59" x W 49" x D 6" Chest: 50"