Basic Detail Report



19, 20, 21

Date

2020

Primary Maker

Lisa Trujillo

Medium

Natural handspun and hand-dyed churro wool and silk, chamisa, indigo, log wood, cochineal, golden rod, madder, cota, synthetic dyes and acid

Description

Rug woven with COVID-19 pandemic scene with Hospital building in center, with people in different areas of the middle and back grounds, as well as homes surrounding the central image as a border. White fringe tassels along the edges left over from the weft. Mainly beige and off white colors with blue and purple mountain backgrounds. At the onset of the pandemic, the weaving shop and gallery Centinela Weavers shut down. Co-owner and weaver Lisa Trujillo immediately set her talents to sewing masks, sometimes using fabric distributed by the Health and Human Services department of Río Arriba County. The first 1500–1600 masks of the county program were donated to different areas of Northern New Mexico, including the Navajo Reservation and Jicarilla Apache Reservation. Trujillo soon set up an outdoor shop in front of the Chimayo store to sell traditional Río Grande–style weavings and new masks. The first group of masks were made from leftover handwoven fabrics by employee Lee Alexander. Trujillo stated that sewing masks “was a great way to focus my anxious energies.” This energy eventually fed into the creation of her large-scale Río Grande weaving. The piece includes many different doors and windows that signify the shelter-in-place orders throughout the nation and the world. The only open doors, in the four corners, reference the above quote by Alexander Graham Bell, what the artist refers to as “the mysterious future that we do not know.” The piece contains figural images in various shapes, sizes, and colors to represent the human population. The artist explains that “nobody is colorless. We are all in this together and experiencing this together … our interconnectedness is really important.” (From exhibition label text).