

Hooked rug for staircase in two sections

Date

ca. 1935

Primary Maker

Evangeline (Eva) Coombs Coates

Medium

recycled wool, burlap (bast fiber, e.g., jute or hemp)

Description

Two part stair rug with 15 life scenes and different types of flowers between the scenes (overall dark purple-blue color with red flower border design). A) Includes steps #1-6, Scene of graduation, Engagement, Lake Tahoe, Los Angeles, their pet cat. B) Includes steps # 7-15, Berkley home, birth of children, San Francisco office, pet dog, first car, visit to Olymics, Chicago world fair and the family home. (see attached file for more detail.) This rug is an excellent example of women's autobiographical life review and storytelling in folk art. Created in the mid-1930s, each step represents a milestone in the artist's family arranged in chronological order ascending the staircase. It was created in two long sections to accommodate a staircase with a quarter landing. This donation also comes with unusually strong provenance. Ms. Coates's grandchildren have provided detailed explanations for the design of each step, family photographs, and personal memories (See file). Rug was hand cleaned by collections staff and volunteers (and frozen)

Dimensions

A.2022.59.1a 30 × 136 1/2 × 1 in. A.2022.59.1b 180 x 30 x 1 in.



