

The British
Museum

Turkmen Textile Journeys

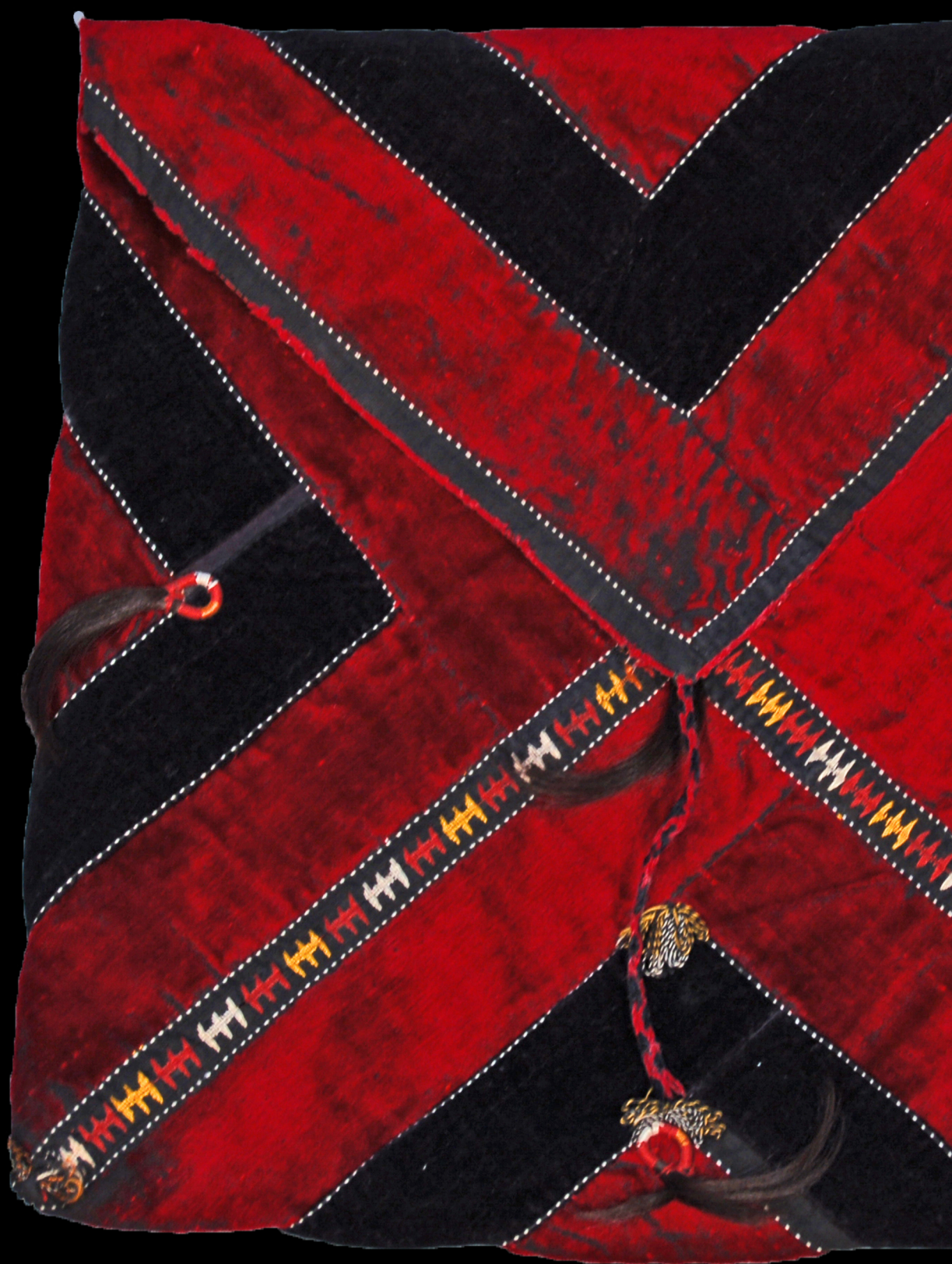
Between Identity and History

15th of August
4:30 - 7:00 pm

Clore Centre

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Turkmen Textile Journeys

Turkmen are nomads believed to have come from Mongolia, and are found in Iran, Turkmenistan, Northern Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. As nomadic people on the move, they created portable textiles as clothing, as animal trappings and to furnish their tents and to store their belongings in a practical form. These textiles carried talismanic symbolism through their materials, colours and designs, promoting fertility and health and providing protection to the user.



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Through their distinctive colour palettes (red, black, white, yellow and green) and patterns inspired by nature (astral, vegetal and animal motifs), Turkmen textiles are not merely utilitarian artefacts but also representations of a highly complex and historically continuous culture. Textiles are living witnesses to the nomad's journey through their identity and history. Through them, the three cyclical elements “birth – life – death” speak out about the way of life in a Turkmen community more than history books would.



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British Museum Collection Online:

https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/W_As1996-22-34