

Collar and cuffs  
(untitled)

Elsi Giaque  
1921



Kragen und Manschetten, 1921  
Entwurf/Ausführung: Elsi Giaque, Fachschule für  
Sticken und Modezeichnen, Gewerbeschule Zürich, CH  
Dozentin: Sophie Taeuber-Arp  
Material/Technik: Baumwolle, Lurex, Seide; Glasperlen,  
eingewebt  
19.5 x 7.0 cm  
Eigentum: Museum für Gestaltung Zürich / ZHdK

Already as a student, the work of Elsi Giaque (1900–1989) attested to her lofty aspirations and self-discipline in the field of textile design. The woven collar and matching cuffs with interwoven glass beads make a harmonious ensemble that would provide a lovely finishing touch for any piece of clothing.

The renowned Swiss textile designer Elsi Giaque wove this collar and matching cuffs during her training at the Kunstgewerbeschule Zürich. They mark the beginning of a lifelong and prolific exploration of textile techniques. The pattern on the light cotton warp was created with gray and pink silk combined with gold and silver thread. The beads woven into the pattern lend the harmonious tonal composition a relief effect and greater complexity. In addition to garment trims, Giaque also created necklaces, brooches, and evening bags, setting down her ideas as color gouache sketches on graph paper. Inspired in the elegant look devised by the groundbreaking Paris couturier Paul Poiret, Giaque christened her beaded pieces *Accessoires Poiret*. In the following decades, she would successfully pursue the Parisian ideal in countless compositions for woven fabrics created in the textiles studio at

her home on castle hill (Festi) in Ligerz overlooking Lake Biel. Giaque was introduced to the unusual material of glass beads by her lecturer Sophie Taeuber-Arp (1889–1943), who first challenged her students to design patterns in cross-stitch work that was well suited to further development with additional materials such as beads. The openness to new materials and techniques ultimately paved the way for Giaque to pursue a career in textile art. (Sabine Flaschberger)

<https://www.eguide.ch/en/objekt/ohne-titel-21/>

Museum  
für Gestaltung  
Zürich

Zürcher  
Hochschule der  
Künste

museum-gestaltung.ch  
eGuide.ch  
eMuseum.ch