



Artwork by George Gingras

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Gauntlets are elbow-length gloves that are made of animal hide. They are often decorated with **beads**, **quillwork**, or **embroidery**. Each pair is distinct. In the past, Métis women made gauntlets but only men wore them. It was important for each pair of gauntlets to be unique. Such uniqueness was necessary because hunters used them to identify the animals they killed while hunting **bison**. As soon as an animal was shot, the hunter would drop his gauntlet beside it before continuing on the hunt. This tactic was used to keep track of who shot which bison during the confusion of the hunt. After the bison were killed, the women looked to see whose gauntlets were lying beside each animal. They would only start skinning and butchering an animal that was beside their husband's gauntlets. The meat was usually shared with others in the community.

### Other Resources:

Pelletier, Joanne. *Métis Historical Booklet Series: Gabriel Dumont and The Buffalo Hunt; The North-West Resistance of 1885*. Regina: Gabriel Dumont Institute, 1985. (Available online at [www.metismuseum.ca](http://www.metismuseum.ca)).

Troupe, Cheryl. *Expressing Our Heritage: Métis Artistic Designs*. Study Prints and Teachers' Manual. Saskatoon: Gabriel Dumont Institute, 2002.

*The Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture* ([www.metismuseum.ca](http://www.metismuseum.ca)).

