

Basic Detail Report



Treasure Box (Waka huia)

Date

19th to 20th Century

Primary Maker

Māori

Medium

Wood

Description

This ornately carved lidded box was used to store personal valuables and ornamentations. Personal ornamentations were intimately associated with the head (the most sacred part of the body) and carried supernatural powers, requiring careful handling and preservation when not being worn. This beautifully carved treasure box was designed to be suspended from the rafters of a house to keep the contents safe and out of reach. For this reason, the underside of the box is as intricately carved as the sides and top.

Dimensions

Box and lid (a,b): 3 3/4 × 13 1/2 in. (9.5 × 34.3 cm) a: 10 1/4 × 3 1/4 × 3/4 in. (26 × 8.3 × 1.9 cm)