



47 × 29 × 4 1/2 in. (119.4 × 73.7 × 11.4 cm)

Bag (Waghir Kon Men)

Date

early to mid 20th Century

Medium

Bark fiber and hornbill feather

Description

This feathered net bag comes from the Bimin-Kuskusmin people of Papua New Guinea's Sandaun Province. String bags decorated with hornbill feathers are worn by initiated and sexually active males who have not yet reached the level of village elder. Women, on the other hand, wear undecorated bags suspended from their foreheads. The feathered bags are symbolically linked to hunting and harvesting rites and strongly tied to the initiation process itself of nurturing young men into adults, paralleling the actions of male hornbill birds that also nurture their young.

Dimensions