



Chest Ornament (Fofona)

Date

20th Century

Medium

Plant fiber, shell and pigment

Description

This pectoral ornament comes from the Eastern Highlands area of Papua New Guinea and it dates to the 20th century. Body ornamentation for the men and women of New Guinea is the key expression of their material status, their beauty, their rank in their community, their skills as a hunter, the number of pigs they may own, and for the men the success of their hunting abilities based upon what they wear on their body. In our culture it is the car you drive that signifies status; in New Guinea, it is what you wear and how you display your ornaments of materialism.

Dimensions

24 1/4 x 14 1/4 x 1 3/4 in. (61.6 x 36.2 x 4.4 cm)