



Bowl (Pakaka)

Date

20th Century

Medium

Kao wood

Description

Feast bowls such as this from Molokai Island, Hawaii are generally referred to as calabash bowls due to their

resemblance to a prized type of gourd. Although aesthetically beautiful, this bowl was created for the utilitarian purpose of holding poi or meats. Calabashes are highly prized, and until the 1800s they were used only by royalty or other members of the upper class. Bowls were named after an esteemed ancestor or chief and repaired as necessary. Butterfly shaped wooden pegs were inserted into weak spots and at splits. These types of repairs were seen as marks of beauty.

Dimensions

5 7/8 × 12 × 12 1/2 in. (14.9 × 30.5 × 31.8 cm)