

Basic Detail Report



Bowl

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Abelam

Medium

Coconut, paint, and kaolin

Description

This object is a soup bowl carved from a coconut shell, made by the Abelam people residing in Papua New Guinea's East Sepik Province. Coconut bowls such as this were typically carved with incredibly intricate patterns. Abelam men used them to drink a special white yam soup served at traditional ceremonies. As such, they were considered prestige objects as well as utilitarian. Typically, these coconut cups have a classic "nggwal" ancestral spirit face carved into the outside of the bowl.

Dimensions

6 × 5 1/2 × 3 1/2 in. (15.2 × 14 × 8.9 cm)