



Dance Shield (Salawaku)

Date

19th Century

Medium

Wood, shell and pigment

Description

This object is a ceremonial dance shield, or Salawaku, from the Island of Seram within Indonesia's Maluku (Molucca) Islands Province. It is made of wood darkened with black pigment, adorned with shell inserts, and has a carved handle on the reverse. The hourglass shape is characteristic of shields from several eastern Indonesian cultures.

Dimensions

27 × 4 1/2 × 3 1/2 in. (68.6 × 11.4 × 8.9 cm)