



Ancestor Figure (Nggwal)

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Abelam

Medium

Wood

Description

This wooden architectural feature is carved with several figures that represent spirit beings (nggwal) associated with Abelam clan ancestors. In addition to human-like figures, Abelam carvers often incorporate hornbill birds and other animals as clan totems. The carving would have been lashed to the interior of the central ceremonial house during important male initiation or harvest rituals along with many other painted panels and carvings.

Dimensions

183 in. (464.8 cm)