



Katsina of Patang (Squash)

Date

c. 1940

Primary Maker

Hopi

Medium

Cottonwood root and pigment

Description

Squash as well as a variety of gourds and pumpkins were staple crops for the Hopi. The Squash katsina reinforced the significance of this important crop. It is represented with green body paint with black lines and a large gourd shaped mask. The Squash katsina is one of a group of “runners.” These katsina spirits appear during Spring ceremonies and challenge Hopi men to foot races. If the men win they are given gifts. If the katsina wins the men

are punished. It is a traditional way for the katsinam to encourage the people to be good runners.

Dimensions

2 1/2 × 1 × 5/8 in. (6.4 × 2.5 × 1.6 cm)