



Headdress (Egungun) Finial

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Yoruba

Medium

Wood, cloth and pigment

Description

AFRICAN: Ceremonial Object other than mask. Egungun Society Headdress. Wood and cloth. Yellow, black, and white. Tribal scarification on cheeks and forehead. Punctated pupils. Yoruba, Nigeria. Egungun masquerades are found in the majority of Yoruba communities and are greatly respected and feared as the spirits of the ancestors who have returned to visit the living descendants. Together with other forms of ritual masquerade they serve to regulate behavior within the community according to the norms of the society.

Dimensions

12 × 11 × 9 1/2 in. (30.5 × 27.9 × 24.1 cm)