



## Canoe Prow Ornament (Nguzu Nguzu)

### Date

19th Century

### Medium

Wood, mother-of-pearl and pigment

### Description

These carved canoe prows have and still continue to play an important role in Solomon Islands culture. The prow has an anthropomorphic head with forward extended arms, hands clasped together, sometimes grasping a small head of a bird. Shell inlays are also very important as well. Placed as close to the waterline as possible the prow figure was intended to be seen splitting the water. The figure while human looking also was considered an ocean spirit that permitted safe passage for the canoe and its warriors as they sailed toward the destination of their battle.

### Dimensions

12 5/8 × 3 5/8 × 6 3/4 in. (32.1 × 9.2 × 17.1 cm)