



Dance Headdress (Ekeleke)

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Igbo

Medium

Fabric, copper, kaolin, brass, fabric and hair

Description

This object is used by groups of the Igbo people, and is considered a dance crest called Ekeleke. The Ekeleke is worn on top of the head during Owu dances in dry seasons, where the Owu dancers call upon the water gods for rain and fertility, while dancing on short stilts. Some of the dances involve a theatrical battle between 'good' and 'evil,' usually depicted by the Ekeleke.

Dimensions

Overall: 18 in. (45.7 cm)