

Basic Detail Report



Fetish Figure

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Yaka

Medium

Wood, fabric and fiber

Description

Used among the Yaka tribe of Zaire to support or contain special concoctions or powers. When charged with these ingredients, they become medicines-poisons that "make ill" through an invisible (supernatural) influence - or "make well" by removing this influence. Owned by specific lineages rather than individuals. The man or woman who becomes cured is entitled to become its ritual officer or nganga ('doctor'). Mbwoolo figures are passed on from

generation to generation.

Dimensions

9 5/16 x 4 1/8 x 3 7/8 in. (23.7 x 10.5 x 9.8 cm)