



Over-Modeled Skull

Date

20th Century

Medium

Human skull, vegetable matter, sap and pigment

Description

This created portrait of the dead is from Vanuatu. The skull of an important man was removed after the body decomposed. Using a vegetable mixture and sap, the skull was over-modeled to replicate the face of the deceased as closely as possible. The skull was then used as part of an effigy in ceremonies for the dead, then later placed in the ceremonial men's house.

Dimensions

5 7/8 × 5 5/8 × 9 1/4 in. (14.9 × 14.3 × 23.5 cm)