



Deity Figure (Shango)

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Yoruba

Medium

Wood, paint and metal

Description

This Yoruba figure represents a god, or "Orisha," named Shango. Shango was considered to be a royal ancestor of the Yoruba peoples and was the fourth king of the Oyo kingdom. After his seven-year reign and death, he was deificated into an Orisha, as he was considered one of the most powerful rulers in Yorubaland. Despite his high praise throughout time, he was very violent and prone to anger, with a career marked by many battles, raids and campaigns. Shango is worshipped by using red clothing, as he favored the color red in his lifetime.

Dimensions

Overall: 24 in. (61 cm)