

Basic Detail Report



Mask

Date

20th Century

Medium

Wood, fiber and tassels

Description

This dark wooden mask was obtained in the East Sepik Province of Papua New Guinea and dates back to the 20th century. The mask is carved into an oblong human face and features exaggerated features. The forehead of the mask is incised with three holes and fiber tassels tethered through. A twisted tassel is tied through the nostrils and wraps around the back of the mask; appearing much like an ornamentation piece. The mask features an elongated chin with a protruding tip. Given the unique style of this particular mask it is difficult to determine the area this

piece originates from. Mask from the Sepik area are generally carved and named to represent a spirit, mythical figure or ancestor. When the mask is worn by a wearer--such as a performer or young boy embarking his initiation rite--the named entity is said to "slip into" the mask and evoke its powers.

Dimensions

20 1/2 × 4 3/4 × 5 in. (52.1 × 12.1 × 12.7 cm)