



floral-like patterns.

Dimensions

60 × 15 × 31 in. (152.4 × 38.1 × 78.7 cm)

Dance Mask (Kavat)

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Baining

Medium

Bark cloth, bamboo cane, paint, raffia and feather

Description

Fire dance helmet mask also known as a kavat from the Baining people on the Gazelle Peninsula from East New Britain Province in Papua New Guinea, Melanesia. Dates to the 20th century. This mask is made of beige bark cloth sewn to a light-weight wooden frame made from bamboo canes. The lips resemble a duck's lips. The eyes share a single narrow tall frame; this frame is curved around its edges and comes up a little further towards the front than the back. That same frame and the top of the helmet are decorated in simple yet bold red and black geometric