



Dance Axe

Date

19th to early 20th Century

Primary Maker

Mendi

Medium

Wicker, wood and metal

Description

This dance axe is a somewhat fragile weapon. It was kept at the shoulder of a warrior and thrown only when there was certainty that an opponent would be hit. The axe was also used in rituals as a display of power and hung on a bark belt to rest at the side of a dancer. Axes such as this one were highly valued ceremonial objects and a favored trade item - a groom would present the relatives of his wife with a number of these axes as part of a bride price.

Dimensions

23 1/8 × 18 1/2 × 1 3/4 in. (58.7 × 47 × 4.4 cm)