



Dimensions

29 × 18 × 13 in. (73.7 × 45.7 × 33 cm)

Dance Mask (Lorr)

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Tolai

Medium

Wood, paint, fiber, leaves and bamboo cane

Description

This mask comes from the Tolai people residing in West New Britain Province in Papua New Guinea, and it dates to the 20th century. White is the color of death in Melanesian culture and this dance mask called lorr (skull) likely represents a ghost or other manifestation concerned with the afterlife. These masks found on the southern west coast of New Ireland, New Britain's Gazelle Peninsula, and the Duke of York Islands located between, were linked to ceremonies regarding death and the spirit realm.