

Basic Detail Report



Mask (Lewa)

Date

20th Century

Medium

Lygodium vine fiber, wood, dog teeth and paint

Description

Vokeo Island is the largest and most western of the Schouten Islands, located off the north coast of New Guinea. It is known for its secret ceremonies including one

in which men walk into the ocean and cut themselves to imitate menstruation as a cleansing process. This male dance mask is called a "Lewa" meaning "heart" and represents the heart of the spirits and is used during important ceremonial dances. It is also known as a peace maker.

Dimensions

37 × 9 1/2 × 16 in. (94 × 24.1 × 40.6 cm)