



Spirit Figure (Nogwi)

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Kwoma

Medium

Wood and pigment

Description

This spirit carving, the vernacular name for which is Nogwi, comes from the Kwoma (Nukuma) people residing in the Washkuk Hills are of the East Sepik Province in Papua New Guinea, and it dates to the 20th century. Mischievous nogwi spirits are responsible for disruptive behavior that takes place during the yam ceremony of the Kwoma people. Headhunters, warriors and other esteemed males participate in the two day event (it is they who physically carry out the breaking of pottery and destruction of house roofs - all of which is attributed to

the nogwi). The carved female spirits watch from atop a large pile of yams that is later distributed among the participants of the ceremony at its end.

Dimensions

51 3/4 × 7 1/4 × 5 in. (131.4 × 18.4 × 12.7 cm)