

Basic Detail Report



Bowl

Date

20th Century

Medium

Wood, shell and paint

Description

This large wooden feast bowl comes from the Solomon Islands and dates to the 20th century. It is decorated with a central pattern consisting of opposing figures resembling fish or dolphins with long snouts and pointed teeth. At the end of the snouts are hands which belong to an anthropomorphic figure extending from either end of the bowl. White shell is inlaid in the shape of triangles, arches or half circles, diamonds, and radiating suns. Feasts are the premiere social gatherings in New Guinea. These village-wide or multi-village events can mark the end of a battle, the passing of an elder, or the celebration of a marriage. The day of the feast the host provides as many pigs as he can afford to ensure his social status for years to come. The pigs are ritually killed and then roasted in a rock pit for hours. Eventually they are served along with other Oceanic staples like taro and sago. As the gathered crowd awaits the food, elaborate dances are performed to further demonstrate the organizer's wealth and power.

Dimensions

75 × 16 × 13 1/2 in. (190.5 × 40.6 × 34.3 cm)