

Basic Detail Report



Mask (Barak)

Date

late 19th - 20th Century

Primary Maker

Boiken

Medium

Wood and paint

Description

This mask, vernacular name known as Barak, comes from the Boiken people of Bungain village in the East Sepik Province of Papua New Guinea. It dates to the late 19th - 20th century. This is a roughly carved stylized mask with some traces of red, white and black paint. The barak mask was designed as a mask to connect the audience through the dancer to the creator who lives in the spirit world. Masks were created in the forest and stored in the men's Spirit House (Haus Tamabaran). The young and uninitiated were forbidden to see the masks - or even witness the highly ritualized dances.

Dimensions

19 × 5 1/8 × 12 in. (48.3 × 13 × 30.5 cm)