



Spear

Date
mid 20th Century

Primary Maker
Asmat

Medium
Wood and pigment

Description

A dark brown wooden spear collected from the Papua Province (Irian Jaya) of Indonesia and dates back to the mid-20th century. The Asmat are well known for their intricately carved and elegantly adorned spears. Carved out of single piece of light wood this spear presents an openwork panel about a third of the way up the shaft. The panel features a repeating "x" pattern with incised coiled designs at the center--that may be a symbolic depiction of the cuscus tail. Two pairs of barbs found just under the spear top are aerodynamic in shape and are designed to accurately pierce the intended target.

Dimensions

115 7/16 × 6 1/4 × 1 13/16 in. (293.2 × 15.9 × 4.6 cm)