

Basic Detail Report



Drum

Date

mid 20th Century

Primary Maker

Asmat

Medium

Wood

Description

This drum originates from the Asmat culture in the Papua Province of Indonesia. Asmat drums are carved into hourglass shapes from single piece of softwood and then hollowed out from the inside using a burning method. The length and ornamentation of the drum are dependent on the cultural traits of the craftsman. This particular Asmat drum features in intricately incised handle with a series of

S-shaped designs separated by a grip. Drums are an integral part of everyday life for the Asmat people, as they are supplement to nearly all cultural songs, both public and private. The Asmat believe the drums contain a great deal of spiritual energy and therefore are an essential component to all ceremonies and rituals.

Dimensions

34 1/2 × 7 7/8 in. (87.6 × 20 cm)