

Basic Detail Report



Crocodile Figure

Date
20th Century

Medium
Wood, pigment and cowrie shell

Description
At the center of the creation myth of the people of the Middle Sepik is the crocodile, for all mankind was born from the mouth of the crocodile. This carving, which is a composite of several figures on the back of a crocodile, is always present as young male initiates are scarred in the form of crocodiles on their chest and back, honoring the source of power and origin for all of the people of their village.

Dimensions
8 1/2 × 7 1/2 × 191 in. (21.6 × 19.1 × 485.1 cm)